



Raymond Willingham

October 14, 2013

The death of W. Raymond Willingham, 76, occurred Monday, October 14, 2013, in New York City.

Weather permitting, graveside services will be held at Baldwin Memorial Gardens in Milledgeville, at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, November 9. If necessary, services will be held at the chapel of Williams Funeral Home. Walter L. Prestwood, Jr. will officiate.

Before retirement, Raymond headed the computer department of international law offices out of New York. An active and noted vocalist in the city, he was a member of the Voices of Ascension Choir; Church of the Ascension, of which he was a member. Raymond was raised in DeKalb County by his grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. R. D. Sherrill, Sr., graduated SW DeKalb and attended Emory University. Drafted in 1958, he graduated language school, living several years in Berlin. Returning home to study voice in New York, he earned several degrees, taught college English, but settled into the law firm and music.

Raymond is survived by his sister, Sherri Prestwood of Milledgeville; nephews, Walter Prestwood, Jr., of Milledgeville, Gary Frazier of Toombsboro, and Jay Frazier of Mississippi; nieces, Sue Prestwood and Worth Prestwood of Milledgeville, Wendy Boykin of Alabama, and Julie Clayton of Toombsboro;

and the next two generations of nieces and nephews of which there are thirty-seven. He asked that special mention be made of his great-niece, Lindsay Prestwood, who lived with and cared for him during his final illness. He expressed his gratitude, saying she went beyond what nurses were expected to do. He is also survived by three beloved aunts, Mrs. Chris Sherrill, Mrs. Jane Sherrill, and Mrs. Tiny Sherrill Cox of the greater Atlanta area, other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations are to be sent to Voices of Ascension, 12 West 11th Street, NY, NY 10011.

Tribute Wall

LA

“ I am very sorry for your loss. May Jehovah the True God prove to be with your family at this times of sadness.

L. Alston - November 27, 2013 at 08:34 PM

CS

“ Beloved friend and neighbor your death has wrenched a kind of permanent silence upon my world.. a precious little world we shared. You have left me permanently searching the universe for a tall, barrel-chested man with a shock of tousled hair and a ready, open personality. Another time dear friend, another reality and my God the wine will be eternally magnificent. Your death has broken my heart, but didn't we laugh when it mattered. Farewell dear one Cecelia

Cecelia Shoemaker - November 07, 2013 at 11:59 PM

WW

“ Wendy White lit a candle in memory of Raymond Willingham



Wendy White - November 07, 2013 at 02:06 PM

LS

“ Lane Sherrill lit a candle in memory of Raymond Willingham



Lane Sherrill - November 07, 2013 at 02:04 PM

JS

“ *Jane Sherrill lit a candle in memory of Raymond Willingham*



Jane Sherrill - November 07, 2013 at 02:02 PM

JS

“ *Jane Sherrill lit a candle in memory of Raymond Willingham*



Jane Sherrill - November 07, 2013 at 01:55 PM

“ Not a day goes by that I don't grieve Raymond's passing. Not a day goes by that I don't cherish the fact that he and I shared the name, William, and not a day passes that I don't think about some of the funny things.

Things like when I was about two years old, Raymond picked me up and put me on his shoulders. Without thinking about it, I reached 'round his head to hold on, placing my hands over his eyes, leading to laughter, from everyone in the room. So, for about the next year or so, every time he'd put me on his shoulders, I'd do the same thing.

I will always cherish the fact that Raymond had a sense of humor and, not only could he dish it out, but he was also able to take a joke. Not only could he be insulting (in a playful way), but he could also take playful insults.

It seems that, when I'd say something to him, he'd reply, "Shut your mouth," and I'll never forget either his expression nor his accent (people may not understand this but I am able to not only lipread accents, but also copy and mimic them - because of this, I'll hold onto the way he'd say that, 'til we meet again, as they say.)

Anybody, who has read what his beloved sister has written about him knows about his quirks, he humor, etc. My memories are a bit different, though. I can remember when he'd eaten a big biscuit, nearly half a turkey and then a big chunk of gingerbread, before sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner.

He loaded his plate, cleaned it and then began to reload. As he picked up his third dish I told him I might be able to help him get a job, should he ever need one. He asked what I'd have him doing and I replied that Dallas, TX, needed a new garbage disposal. And, as I've said, his reply was, "Shut your mouth!"

When I was growing up, for some reason, I could remember having seen him in a play, though not where he'd preformed or more than one line of a song. In 1999, when I asked him about it, he replied that it was, A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum

and I went back to Dallas, TX, where I found the music score in the city library.

After he and I began corresponding over the 'net, I wrote, "Dear, 'Something Peculiar'," when I wrote him, using some of the words, from the beginning of his song.

And the memories, of 52 years I've known, clowned around with and loved this man will continue to come to mind, for the next 52 years, should I live that long. It would also take the rest of this allotted space and half my life, to write all the things I've loved about this man for the past 52 years and why it is so hard to imagine him to be gone!

I do not look forward to going over to my Mom's house and seeing his picture on the wall, where she has put those, who have gone before us because it is so hard to imagine the picture of this family clown, the "nut" she wrote about, when she said she'd always felt a child needed a nut for an uncle.

One final thought, when that column was published, I asked if he'd seen it and he said he had. I told him he'd lost his job, "because that's my baby, now."

I just hope I do him proud!

Gary Frazier - November 06, 2013 at 11:54 PM

CS

“ *Cindy Sherrill lit a candle in memory of Raymond Willingham*



Cindy Sherrill - November 06, 2013 at 10:35 AM



“ 7 files added to the album Ray



Lindsay Prestwood - October 28, 2013 at 01:50 PM



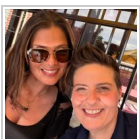
“ *Coretta Hazeltine was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:48 PM



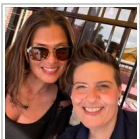
“ *Dr. raymond D Sherrill was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:47 PM



“ *Abel McMullen was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:45 PM



“ *Addi sue Dixon was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:45 PM



“ *Emma Jackson was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:44 PM



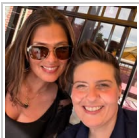
“ *Kelsey Jackson was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:44 PM



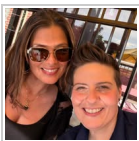
“ *Evan Jackson was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:44 PM



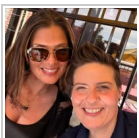
“ *Lane Jackson was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:44 PM



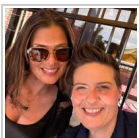
“ *Ennis free Dixon was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:43 PM



“ *Judah Dixon was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:43 PM



“ *Zion Dixon was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:43 PM



“ Molly cate Clayton was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:43 PM



“ Bradley Clayton was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:43 PM



“ Elisha Hinton was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:42 PM



“ Lily beth Hinton was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:42 PM



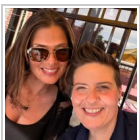
“ Zeke Hinton was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:42 PM



“ Blake Mcbrayer was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:41 PM



“ Jason McMullen was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:40 PM



“ *Molly Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:40 PM



“ *David Dixon was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:40 PM



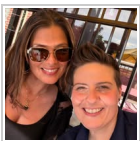
“ *Dana Clayton was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:40 PM



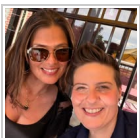
“ *Ernie Gunter was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:40 PM



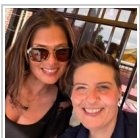
“ *Jarod Hinton was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:40 PM



“ *Maggie Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:39 PM



“ *Marcus Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:39 PM



“ *Jacob Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:39 PM



“ *Jared Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:39 PM



“ *Andrew Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:39 PM



“ *Amos Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:39 PM



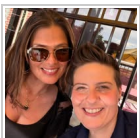
“ *Rachel Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:39 PM



“ *Amy Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:38 PM



“ *Bennett Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:38 PM



“ *Betsy Mcbrayer was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:38 PM



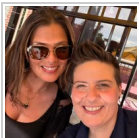
“ *Leah McMullen was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:38 PM



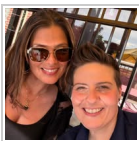
“ *Will Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:38 PM



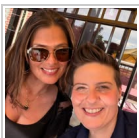
“ *Lindsay Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:38 PM



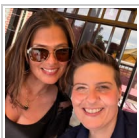
“ *Leslie Dixon was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:37 PM



“ *Bruce Clayton was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:37 PM



“ *Lynn Gunter was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:37 PM



“ *Anna Hinton was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:36 PM



“ *Mallory Frazier was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:36 PM



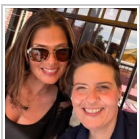
“ *Abby kate Frazier was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:36 PM



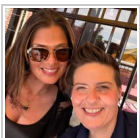
“ *Zane Frazier was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:36 PM



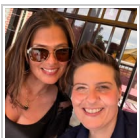
“ *Emili Boykin was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:36 PM



“ *Stephen Boykin was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:36 PM



“ *Zach Boykin was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:35 PM



“ Raymond Willingham was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:34 PM



“ Edith Toulson Bennett was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:32 PM



“ Walter Liston Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:32 PM



“ Eric Boykin was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:30 PM



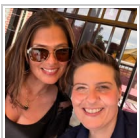
“ Suzanne Frazier was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:30 PM



“ Helen Frazier was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:30 PM



“ Willie Willingham was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:29 PM



“ Phillip Clayton was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:29 PM



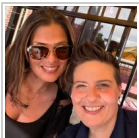
“ Sue Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:28 PM



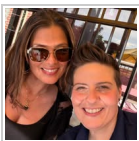
“ Jay Frazier was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:28 PM



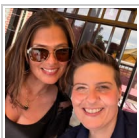
“ Wendy Boykin was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:28 PM



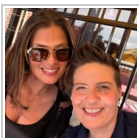
“ Worth Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:27 PM



“ Gary Frazier was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:27 PM



“ Carl Frazier was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:27 PM



“ Julie Clayton was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:27 PM



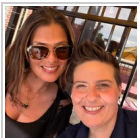
“ Walter Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:26 PM



“ Sue Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:25 PM



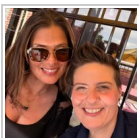
“ Phillip Clayton was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:25 PM



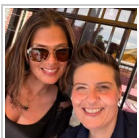
“ Julie Clayton was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:25 PM



“ Walter Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:25 PM



“ Walter Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:24 PM



“ *Sherri Willingham Prestwood was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:24 PM



“ *Evelyn Hazeltine was added to the Family Tree.*

Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:23 PM



“ *14 files added to the album Ray*



Lindsay Prestwood - October 26, 2013 at 10:14 PM

SW

Stephanie Susanne Willingham Moffitt, Mary Arabelle Moffitt, Joseph Archer Moffitt, David Russell Willingham, Madalyn Elisabeth Willingham -- all of Atlanta, Georgia -- grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Joseph Herman Willingham added to family tree.

Susan Shirley Willingham - November 10, 2013 at 04:22 PM

SW

Correction: Madalyn Elisabeth Willingham

Susan Shirley Willingham - November 10, 2013 at 04:24 PM