



## Ms. Shirley Ann Willis

April 14, 1938 - December 28, 2014

“ ..to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8

Big Stone Gap VA,

Shirley Ann Willis ,76, went to be with her Lord, on the Lord’s day, Sunday, December 28, 2014, at her home after a brief illness.

Shirley accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her Savior at a young age. She contributed to many ministries and charities. She enjoyed watching church services on television, gospel singing, and country music. She enjoyed reading, especially local history.

She was born in Pardee, Virginia, April 14, 1938. Shirley was an artist. Her oil paintings and reprints of her painting of Pardee hang on many walls of lots of people who appreciate her talent. An art critic from Oxford University, visiting in the area, said, “This artist should be known to the world at large. Artist Shirley Willis brings to this planet, through her art, something that seems to harmonize all of nature and its inhabitants in a natural rhythm of life.” Her portrayal of Pardee is a measure of the strengths of a proud people, and her paintings of Bee Rock Tunnel and Natural Tunnel are expressions and celebrations of the wonderment of nature. Her painting of Pardee was sold to a college professor who was writing a book on how local artists have excelled in their craft, but without formal training. Shirley had polio when she was a child but she was never a victim of the results. She conducted her life with a keen sense of humor without the wailing of adversity. Her world always looked

fresh and new. And when we see it as she did we never stop noticing the beauty and wonder of nature.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Narcissis "Bledsoe" Willis.

She is survived by one sister, Penny Jewell Willis, of the home; one aunt, Cora Roller, of Churchill, Tennessee; and several cousins.

The family will receive friends on Thursday (Jan 1) from 12 noon until 2 at Holding Funeral Home for the visitation.

The funeral service will be conducted following the visitation in the funeral home's chapel with the Rev. Alan Collier officiating.

Special Music will be provided by the Maness Family Singers, Sylvia Zirkle, and Danny Bush.

Pallbearers will be; Jerry McLain, Jerry Bledsoe, Brian Edwards, M.D.

Edwards, Danny Bush, Steven Kindle, David Edwards, and Claude Bledsoe.

The interment will follow in Glencoe Cemetery

You may go online to view the obituary or sign the guest registry at [www.holdingfuneralhome.com](http://www.holdingfuneralhome.com)

Holding Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for the Willis family.

# Cemetery Details

## Glencoe Cemetery

Spring Street  
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 1. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Holding Funeral Home, Inc.  
17 E. 3rd St., N.  
P. O. Drawer H  
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219  
1-276-523-1470  
holdingfuneralhome@comcast.net  
<http://www.holdingfuneralhome.com>

## Service

JAN 1. 2:00 PM (ET)

Holding Funeral Home, Inc.  
17 E. 3rd St., N.  
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## Graveside Service

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JAN 1. 2:45 PM (ET)

Glencoe Cemetery  
Spring Street  
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ms. Shirley Ann Willis*

October 07, 2023 at 10:50 AM



“ *Penny, I'm so sorry to hear about Shirley. You're in my thoughts and prayers. We know she's happy now, but I know you'll miss her so very much.*

**Joan K. Pierson** - January 01, 2015 at 05:33 PM



“ *Miss Willis was a friend of my grandparents Dora and Jeff Pennington from Artesian Well Hollow. My grandparents, my mother, aunts and uncle all lived near Pardee at one time in a place called Whitley Hollow. My aunt Edith actually lived in Pardee. I found the Pardee picture reprint created by Miss Willis in a store in Big Stone Gap...I purchased one for myself and then one for both my aunt and uncle. This picture has brought great joy to me and our family helping all of us visualize again where the Pennington family lived in those long ago years. I will always be thankful to Miss Willis for preserving this memory on canvas for our family. May God bless her and I offer my sympathy to her family.*

*Todd Johnston (son of Georgia Pennington and nephew of John Pennington)*

**Todd Johnston** - January 01, 2015 at 11:25 AM



“ *Penny Jewel and family, please accept my sincere sympathy for your loss. Sharon Taylor Carriger*

**Sharon Taylor Carriger** - December 31, 2014 at 03:40 PM

GH

“ We are very sorry for your loss. We thought a lot of Shirley. It was a privilege to get acquainted with Shirley and her family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Garry and Debbie Hood*

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**Garry Hood** - December 31, 2014 at 11:28 AM

JP

“ Shirley was a longtime friend of our family. She and Jewell were very special to Jeff and Dora Pennington over the years having numerous visits and sharing stories. We have admired her talents and enjoyed her paintings for many, many years and currently have one hanging in our living room. Shirley will be missed by us and all of the community. Rest in peace lovely lady.

*Thinking of you Jewell with our sincere sympathies,  
John and Martha Pennington.*

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**John & Martha Pennington** - December 31, 2014 at 09:31 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ms. Shirley Ann Willis.*



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December 30, 2014 at 09:26 AM