

**This presentation** was developed over a period of several weeks during November, 2008. The pictures are credited to Howard and Dorothy Rainer; that without their help and collection, the presentation would not be.

**The photos** are all featured in black and white. I was told by a professional photographer that monochrome brings out the mood of the photo, or people. **The background** of all the image slides are a blend of red and beige (or flesh) – which was intended to represent that which links or relates us.

With the convenience of the Web – and not much more – **“Rainer” is traced** to both England and Germany (or Deutschland); it is a common first name for the later region as well. **A 1920 U.S. census** showed 13% of the national population (“Rainer”) were living in Alabama; to my recollection, other states with significant percentages included Florida and California. Much of those in Alabama dwelt in the south – or what is called “The Black-belt”; and specific to our family, Ralph Rainer moved to the northeast ostensibly to find work. I am sorry to say that I have not had a relationship with any of Ralph’s kin; but merely met two of them at the funeral of my uncle, Gary Rainer in 2003.

**“Rainer” has several relations**; the immediate names being traced to the first noted generation – or my grandparents; and the other names that represent the outliers or distant family: “Garrard” is similarly mixed in its origin: some distant family have traced the name to Germany; but the Web indicates the name – or its variants – to be from England or the United Kingdom; “Christian” is perhaps the most common of the names; and was possibly an acquired name by the family; “Jennings” and the other names are listed as Anglo with the single exception of “Aaron” – which is Hebrew of course.

**As an anecdote:** on one occasion, my dad “Howard”, recounts the time that Ralph cocked back his arm and dealt a blow to a man who was possibly panhandling at the courthouse. Whether Ralph was annoyed or seemingly protecting his wife and child, the reaction was quick and direct. Still, Ralph suffered from his own blow with a damaged heart from Rheumatic Fever – a condition that kept him out of The War and led to an early death in 1960.

From the opportunity to have children, comes some realness to the claim that family is a gift – as is life itself. The opportunity to accept and be accepted as gifts should not be the only way we measure our worth or value; after all, family are just humans like each of us – and are subject to failures, misgivings, and other limitations to exchange love. No, we must find our worth and value in the final father, God; while still accepting our family as a gift, a blessing...and, at times, a real necessity.

**“About Family and Name”** is by no means a genealogy; it is simply a collection of pictures coupled with my recollections and a few facts pertaining to members of my family dating back to my grandparents. There is much that has been omitted from this collection – both images and memories – of which the later may remain in silence in the recesses of my mind or that of immediate family. Still, I have tried to capture some of each such that a good representation is presented for the passing...I hope you enjoy viewing this presentation as much as I enjoyed making it.

To the Lord, Thank-you