

## 1. Introduction

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After years of interest in the Unruh family history and genealogy, the writers of this book began to think about putting it all together into one book. The process was long and tedious as they tried to define the limits of the project, and how best to produce it and disseminate it to other interested persons.

They decided to limit their efforts to the stories to the ten children of Heinrich B. Unruh. Among these ten were also the grandparents of the compilers of this book. They were interested in finding out more about them, and who the rest of their relatives were. They knew they were mostly in Canada, the United States, Germany and Russia. Some of them had made visits overseas to meet these relatives. Others experienced the visits of the relatives to Canada from Germany. Some had made contact with numerous of their second cousins across North America. It was time to contact other interested relatives and begin the work on the family history and genealogy.

They were fortunate that other relatives before them had already done some work on the family genealogy. The Cornelius Unruh descendants also had an interest in the Unruh ancestors and descendants with the result that Kathy Lenahan, Cornelius' granddaughter, has compiled her own family history book.

Peggy Unruh Regehr's father, Abram A. Unruh, was extremely interested in his Unruh background and had worked tirelessly at gathering that information together. She was fortunate in inheriting that material, as well as the interest of her father, in continuing to work at it.

In the meantime, Alyce Hiebert had also begun to work at the genealogical material of the family, gathering genealogical data and visiting relatives in Canada and abroad. So Alyce and Peggy began to share their work and information with each other.

They soon found out that Nicholas Dick, their second cousin, was particularly interested in the stories of the Unruh Ten and had begun researching and writing about them. This, then, was the beginning of their collaborative work on the stories of their grandparents and their siblings.

It was Nicholas who gave the push needed to actually think of making our work accessible to other relatives and friends interested in the Unruh family. When we sometimes faltered because of the size of the task, he kept them energized to keep working at the completion of the task.

Working across several continents and countries made the task more difficult. As well, their more limited knowledge of German and most of their overseas relative's lack of English, made the task more difficult. Both Walter Regehr, and Nicholas Dick have spent time in doing translations so that the material from the overseas relatives was available for us.

They were also beneficiaries of some of the early work that Benjamin H. Unruh had done and the writings he left that could be used in working back to some of the historical background to the family history. That gave them a framework for the continuation of the work on the family history, story and genealogy.

They are grateful to their spouses, Harriet Amstutz Dick, Victor Hiebert and Walter Regehr for the tremendous support and encouragement they have been in the process of producing this book.

They are also grateful to the many other relatives who have helped along the way. Their help has made this project possible.