

IGRA* at the Forefront of Record Digitizations for Genealogy Research in Israel

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Making Information Available – The goal of the **IGRA** All Israel Databases (AID) is to provide access to databases representative of the region from the mid-1830's through Statehood. The majority of our databases are from archives within Israel while some have been located outside the area. This is a story of cooperation between many groups and coordination between the archives to the IGRA Board to our volunteers. Since 2012 we have made available over 245 databases with more than 575,000 records – in cooperation with approximately 30 archives.

Case Study: Cemetery Digitizations – MyHeritage has paired with BillionGraves to document cemeteries worldwide and MyHeritage CEO Gilad Japhet has set a goal to document all cemeteries in Israel by the end of 2017. This allows specific geographic location of each tombstone as the app has a GPS identifier at the time of photographing. IGRA is one of the sources of volunteers both with photography and with transcription. Records are then shared on all of the different platforms.

Case Study: New Resources Available on the Jewish Community in 19th Century Eretz Israel - During the 19th century the Jewish community in Eretz Israel was part of the Ottoman Empire but not all residents had citizen “status”. As the Israel Genealogy Research Association [IGRA] visits various archives with collections dealing with the period of the 19th century, various documents pertaining to the Jewish community are being discovered. These are in addition to the five

Montefiore Censuses. With great patience IGRA has been striving to build a number of databases from these documents. Samples of these will be discussed, such as the “Nefus” (Turkish census) of the Jewish communities, lists from various foreign consulates and the archives of the first Jewish settlements outside of existing towns. One of IGRA’s “finds” has been a copy of the 1890 “Nefus” for the heads of households of the Jewish community of Bagdad, which was at that time part of the Ottoman Empire.

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