[Enjoying the IGRA Occupation Databases, by Esther Rechtschafner](http://genealogy.org.il/2013/12/09/enjoying-igra-occupation-databases-esther-rechtschafner/%22%20%5Co%20%22Enjoying%20the%20IGRA%20%20Occupation%20Databases%2C%20by%20Esther%20Rechtschafner)

*By* [*Carol Hoffman*](http://genealogy.org.il/author/carolh/) *On December 9, 2013 ·* [*Add Comment*](http://genealogy.org.il/2013/12/09/enjoying-igra-occupation-databases-esther-rechtschafner/#wp-comments) *· In* [*Article*](http://genealogy.org.il/category/article/)



Recently, I was checking family names on the some of the various IGRA databases.  My father had relatives, from the H.Gerschman family who had come on Aliyah from Vitebsk close to a hundred years ago, and also about eighty years ago. When I came on Aliyah, I was lucky enough to meet some family members who were still alive. The others were just beloved names to me.

Knowing that my father’s uncle Matiyhu Gerschman was a lawyer-judge, I decided to try a database that might contain such information. I was thrilled when the first name that I noticed was, indeed, his name!  A continuing search brought up information about his wife Devora – who was one of the first Israeli choreographers – and about their son Dov – who lost his life in the blowing up of a bridge, before Israeli Independence). I found the names of my father’s cousin Yitzchak Herschman and his wife Ava. I even found some proof of the story about how her parents were killed in the Shoah: They had gone back to Vilna to sell their property. This was mentioned in connection with one of Ava’s court cases.

Finally I had written proof of family stories I had heard and I realized that I now had official documentation that these storied people had existed, and that they had even done something to help in the development of the country.

These databases are so helpful and interesting, I decided to continue to check them out. It is interesting to see what occupations people worked at, in Eretz Israel, so long ago.

The databases gelled with what I had studied in Israeli History. I was under the impression that a majority of people in Israel had worked in agriculture, as merchants and/or in trades. I was pleasantly surprised just to notice the names of the various databases, which showed the various occupations. Interestingly, it is possible to see the history of the development of various occupations in the country by the dates indicated on these databases. Needless to say, there are also databases with the names of people who gave their lives for the defense of the country.

Many databases even contain various fields of information, such as: the place and date of birth, parents and/or spouse’s names, Aliyah, education, prior employment/address and sometimes even a picture. Consequently, it is possible to learn a great deal about the life of a particular person.

I found family names of people with whom I actually am now acquainted, and in some cases I might have found the names of relatives of those acquaintances. Certainly this is true in the case of a few of my ex-students who had mentioned that their family had been in Eretz Yisrael for some generations.

It was interesting to note that some of the professional databases also include the names of important Arabs. These lists cover the period of British occupation until present times.

Information about all these Aliyot can be found in the Wikipedia and in The Encyclopedia Judaica.

List of Databases dealing with occupations/professions in the ALL ISRAEL DATABASE of IGRA as of September 2013:

Nurse Certification 1923-1948
List of Teachers of the Histadrut Teacher’s  Center Eretz Israel 1930-31
Members in Agricultural Organizations in Petah Tikva 1931-1936
List of Guards in Petah Tikva 1938
Members of *Histadrut Hamorim* (Teachers’ Council) 1939
List of Teachers of the Dept. of Education of *Havaad HaLeumi* 1940
Short List of the Governmental Departments of Government Clerks of the Government of Palestine that are in Direct Contact with the Jewish Ishuv 1940-41
Partial Index of Workers’ Forms from the Association of Eretz Israel Diamond Industry found in the Netanya Municipal Archives 1942-1946
Registered Doctors 1948-1957
Registered Nurses 1948-1952
Histadrut Teachers who died 1949-51
Practical Nurses 1951-52
Notaries in 1955-56
List of registered accountants 1955-56
List of Persons Authorized to Act as Lawyers in Civil Courts in 1956
List of registered accountants 1956-57
List of Persons Authorized to Act as Lawyers in Civil Courts in 1957
List of persons authorized to act as notaries in 1957-58
Certified Dental Healers with Permission to work from 1958
Licensed Pharmacists to Engage in Their Profession in 1958
Dentists Licensed to Practice in 1958
List of Persons Authorized to Act as Lawyers in Civil Courts in 1958
List of licensed physicians who received their license from 21 Jan 1958 to 31 Dec 1959
List of licensed midwives who received their license through 31 Dec 1959
Mohalim approved by the Chief Rabinate of Israel 1959
Notaries in 1959-60
Licensed Tour Guides 1968
Guide to 100 years of Hebrew Theatre: 1889-1989

 genealogy.org.il

 en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandatory*\_*

www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/211/4784.asp

www.jgsgb.org/conf2013*/*



I was born in Brooklyn, New York, to a Religious Zionist family. I found my place in Bnei Akiva. I attended public schools and graduated from Marshalliah Hebrew High School.

In 1962, I participated in Hachshara Bnei Akiva. Thereafter, I attended Brooklyn College and T.I. of Yeshiva University. However, my place was not there, but here in Israel, and came on Aliya in 1964.

In 1965 I married Mordechai Rechtschafner. We made our home in Kibbutz Ein Zurim. We have 3 married daughters and 11 grandchildren.

I received a BA from the Open University in History and an MA from the Hebrew University in librarianship. I worked at various jobs on the kibbutz, and for 22 years as house-mother in Yeshivat HaKibbutz HaDati. Now I work as librarian /archivist.

I was always interested in my family background, and I began writing articles about the places that my grandparents came from. My father (Oscar H[G]erschman) was a descendent of the Vilna Gaon.