

register indicates that this was not the case, it suggests that the village did continue to receive special consideration.²⁸⁵

Its 1,000 dunams of musha field-crop lands were assessed at 100 kuruş per dunam, fifty kuruş per dunam below the district average. It is difficult to assess the relative value of this property for the villagers. The greatest proportion of their wealth, according to al-Shuyukhi, has been the olive trees, which villagers registered individually in 1876. Why did villagers decide to endow their communal farmlands, apparently coinciding with the period of the *emlak* commission's tour of the district? Land conflict may be a factor.

Limited land resources and Shuyukh's unique location as a geographical island in the sea of another village's agricultural land would appear to be the main reasons why seventeen Shuyukhis owned land registered as belonging to Sa'ir.²⁸⁶ Three of these Shuyukhis owned only small plots in the surrounding village, the largest being eleven dunams. The other fourteen individuals all owned properties in Shuyukh in addition to their Sa'ir acquisitions. The Shuyukhis' Sa'ir lands, overwhelmingly field-crop lands, totaled 624.75 dunams. Five of these plots were substantial in size, each larger than fifty dunams.²⁸⁷

²⁸⁵ Al-Shuyukhi, 31. The author saw only a translation into Arabic of the Ottoman Turkish document preserved in the hands of 'Adnān Mahmūd Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, and reproduced it in full in his book (p. 33).

²⁸⁶ These are registered on Sa'ir village's pages in the *Esas-ı Emlak*, entires #13301, 13346, 13419, and 13640 - 13656.

²⁸⁷ They measured, respectively, 90 dunams, 80 dunams, 75 dunams, and two plots of 60 dunams each. *Esas-ı Emlak* entries #13644, 13645, 13646, 13648, and 13650.