

the Salīmī.³⁷¹ According to the 1876 tax register, Idhna was a village of eighty-seven residences, one olive press, two hay-storage structures, one stable, and a mosque. Villagers registered a total of twenty-five small individual *mūlk* plots on the outskirts of town (*aṭrāf al-balad*). The largest of these vegetable gardens and fig-tree groves was five dunams. The village collectively registered 13,000 dunams of field-crop land and 2,000 olive trees. They were not designated as musha. In comparison, three-quarters of a century later, in 1945, the British recorded for the village 14,481 metric dunams of cereal lands and 528 metric dunams of plantations and trees.³⁷²

On the last day of 1894, Idhna villager Khalil b. Muhammad Salāmeḥ appeared at the sharia court in Hebron in an attempt to dislodge a fellow villager from farmlands Khalīl had been leasing him.³⁷³ Appearing with him was his tenant and also a representative of the accountant for pious endowments in Hebron (*wakīl muḥsebe-ci al-awqāf*, a title mixing Turkish and Arabic), al-Shaykh Hassan Effendi al-Tahboub, of Hebron. Khalil began his

³⁷¹ Ibid., p. 52. See also, Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem, Town Profile of Idhna (2009): http://vprofile.arij.org/hebron/ar/pdfs/ldhna_ar.pdf (in Arabic) and http://vprofile.arij.org/hebron/ar/pdfs/ldhna_ar.pdf (in English): p. 7 in both versions

³⁷² *Village Statistics*, 93.

³⁷³ HR, 16 / 95 / 41, 13 Rajab 1312 (31 December.1894). The surnames of Khalil and the defendant, Muhammad, were not recorded in the sharia register. In the 1875 tax register, one finds two Muhammad b. Salāmeḥs: Muhammad Salāmeḥ ‘Awād and Muhammad Salāmeḥ ‘Awdh. There is no record of a property owner named Khalil b. Muhammad among the village’s privatized properties, which comprised the buildings in the village, and small vegetable gardens and fig-tree groves, none of which was larger than six dunams. Although the town’s official name is Idhna (with the letter د) in both the sharia court document referred to here and in the 1875 tax register, the town’s name was spelled Idna (with the letter ن). Today in the Hebron district, Hebronites still refer to the village as “Idna”, while villagers call it “Idhna”. For the sake of convention, I will use the latter.