

The nineteen sellers shared in the ownership of two parcels of Jamrūra's lands: Qiṭ'a Wadi al-'Abhara and Qiṭ'a al-Rūweisāt. The two areas are adjacent to each other in the middle of Jamrūra.⁴⁰⁰ They had divided the two parcels, totaling 320 dunams, into thirty shares (*sahm*, pl. *ashum*), and they were mortgaging twenty-four of them.⁴⁰¹ Two points about this are particularly noteworthy. First, the villagers expressed the measurement of the parcels in dunams, not feddans. This is significant because the dunam was introduced in Palestine with land reform, during the Tanzimat. Its usage began to be reflected in sharia-court testimonies in Hebron only in the 1890s. This is around the same time we begin to see *tapu kushans* (less often used was the Turkish term, *tapu seneds*) mentioned with some frequency in the court. When the Bayt Kāḥil case was heard in the mid-1890s, the feddan was still the dominant local measurement of land, as can be inferred from many other court cases. We can surmise from the villagers' reference to their lands in dunams that they had

the time the kushan (the *tapu* certificate) was issued. His complaint to the court stated that the siblings were now refusing to get the kushan. The siblings, in turn, denied the sale had taken place and asked for proof. Ahmad declared he had no proof and asked the siblings to take an oath. They took an oath which confirmed the sale as had been related by Ahmad. Ahmad then paid the siblings the remainder of the sale price in court and a ruling of sale was issued. In the absence of real conflict in this case, as proven by the siblings' oath, it can be understood that the *tapu* offices required a declaration from the court proving the sale in order to transfer ownership to Ahmad. HR 13 / 8 / 13 (22 Safar 1308 / 7 October 1890).

⁴⁰⁰ Wadi al-'Abhara runs east-west and is about six kilometers west of the village of Bayt Kāḥil. It is located almost three kilometers north and slightly east of Idhna and less than one kilometer north of Tarqumiya. See Abu Sitta, sheets #473/C1 and #474/A1 (. Al-Rūweisāt is located at the western end of this wadi, just north of the 110th parallel and just west of the 148th longitudinal line (See Abu Sitta, sheet 473/B1.

⁴⁰¹ The court record does not mention who owned the five shares which were not being mortgaged.