

did retain communal patterns of land division (*musha*) and also registered them with the *tapu*.

Part Three: The Moneylenders

So, who were the moneylenders for the Bayt Kāhil villagers? They mortgaged their property to al-Hajj Ibrahim Shāwar and his three brothers, Hajj Muhammad, Naji, and Musa.

According to the 1905 population registry for Hebron each of the four brothers were sons of Ṭālib Shāwar and Fāṭima bt. ‘Amr Abu ‘Amr and each was the head of his own household (*hane*) in the Sawākne neighborhood.⁴⁴⁵ Hajj Ibrahim was born in 1853/4 (1270H) and was the oldest of the four brothers.⁴⁴⁶ In 1905, both he and his brother Hajj Muhammad were registered as merchants (*tācirs*) who could read and write Arabic. Their brother Naji was listed as a merchant and also a grocer (*baqqāl*). The youngest brother, Musa, was also a

⁴⁴⁵ ISA, 1905 nufūs register #176. According to the Shāwar family tree, their father was Ṭālib b. Ibrāhīm b. Muhammad b. ‘Abd al-Dāim. ‘Abd al-Dāim is the family patriarch. See shawar.ps/family-tree/. Amīn Mas’ūd Abu Bakr has found reference in the court records to at least one branch of the Shāwar family having lived in the small Madrasa neighborhood next to the Ibrahimī mosque. (See his MA thesis, written at the University of Jordan and published in 1994 by the university’s Committee for the History of Bilād al-Shām, titled “Qadhā al-Khalīl 1864-1918” (61, the relevant case is one of the three listed in footnote #92 .).) According to the 1905 population register, none of the households in the *mahalle* were headed by a Shāwar. Its residents were almost exclusively from the Tamimi family. The ‘Aqāba neighborhood had a *qaṅṭara* known as *Qaṅṭara Shāwar*, but Shāwars did not reside there.

⁴⁴⁶ It is interesting to observe the internal coherence of Ottoman logic. In the court register as in the population register, the four brothers are named in order of their age. The oldest, Ibrahim, was born in 1270 / 1853-4 and headed #51. Hajj Muhammad, born 1275 / 1858-9, headed hane #52. Nājī, born in 1279 / 1862-3, headed hane 53, and Musa, the youngest, born in 1283 /1866-7, headed hane #54. Their residences were given as: Qaṅṭara (arch) Baṣla, Qaṅṭara ‘Alūsh, Ḥawsh (courtyard) Jawād, and Qaṅṭara al-Dība(?).