

drawn from all the Bani Zaid villages. During the reign of the Egyptian leader Ibrahim Pasha (1832 - 1840), the chief sheikh of Deir-Ghassaneh, sheikh Abdul Jaber, was put to death by Ibrahim Pasha, (Abu Zuheir, interview: 1985). Musa Ahmad Sehweil from 'Abwein and Ali er-Rabbah of Kubar succeeded him. In the later days of Musa, sheikh Saleh, the son of the late sheikh Abdul Jaber, struggled to regain his father's position, and the sheikhdom was divided into two domains: the eastern Bani Zaid sheikhdom which included seven villages with 'Abwein as its chief town, and the Sehwaills as the chief ruling family; and the western Bani Zaid sheikhdom which included 12 villages with Deir Ghassaneh as its chief village, (Macalister, 1906: 354). The two areas were geographically divided by a wadi.

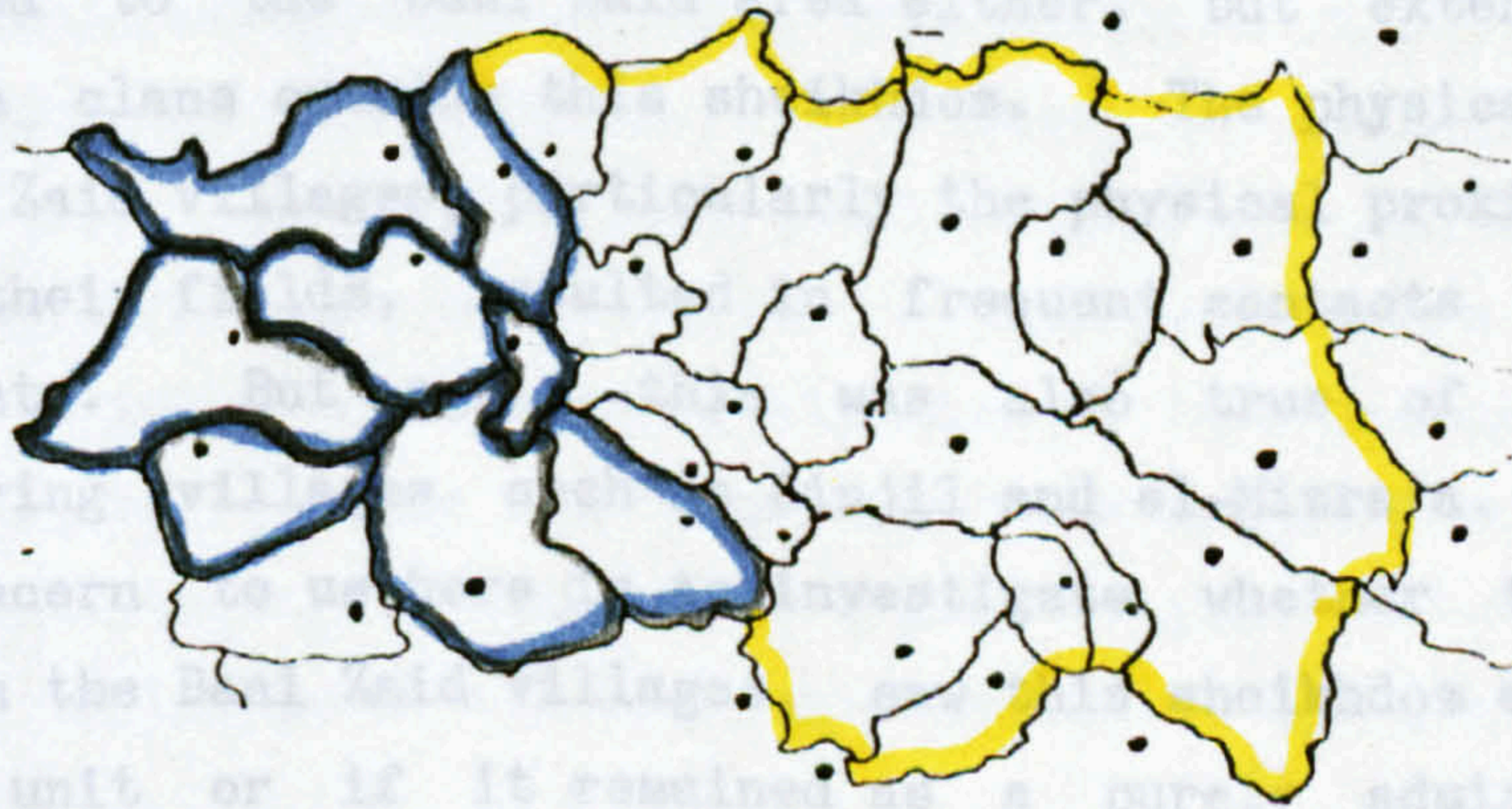




Fig. 2.2:  indicates Barghouthi villages
 fallaheen (non-Barghouthi) villages

As figure 2.2 illustrates, the Bani Zaid villages were divided into Barghouthi villages, where the Barghouthi clans constituted the powerful and most influential section of the village population, and "fallaheen" ("peasant") villages. Fallaheen villages were those in which members of the Barghouthi clan--associated with the dominant feudal group-- did not reside. In this context, fallaheen refers to non-Barghouthis, though the Barghouthi clans were themselves peasants in the wider sense (i.e., being village dwellers who depended on agriculture). Yet the power and wealth of their dominant sub-clan set the whole lineage group apart from other clans. Here the term fallaheen carried negative connotations. It referred to people who