

passage is a fourth claim which, this study will argue, available evidence does not support. It relates to the demographics of registered owners, which will be discussed in the following chapters.

As of yet, there have been no studies on the *yoklama* tapu commissions and their work in Palestine, even though a number of *yoklama* registers are known to exist. In the early years following Israel's conquest of the West Bank, Ya'akov Firestone located a number of *yoklama* registers, the earliest one apparently from 1879.¹²⁹ In a lengthy footnote in a 1975 article, he wrote that the Land Registry offices held Ottoman land-transaction books (*daimi* registers) for Jenin dating continuously from 1886. He also found there some earlier *daimi* registers, "for all of Northern Samaria". This Biblical name (*Shomron* in Hebrew) corresponding roughly to the mountainous central region known in Arabic as *Jabal Nablus*, became official terminology in Israel shortly after the June 1967 war. Since it does not correspond to the Ottoman period, however, it cannot be determined which districts, towns, or villages Firestone meant to indicate. He also mentioned locating in Jenin a number of *yoklama* registers. He wrote specifically about a late 1883 register (Tishrin I, 1299 *maliyye*), which had been cataloged as "Yoklama #5" by Israeli authorities. He also refers to "Jenin

¹²⁹ Ya'akov Firestone, "Production and Trade in an Islamic Context: Sharika Contracts in the Transitional Economy of Northern Samaria, 1853-1943, part II", *IJMES* 6/3 (July 1975): p. 310, footnote 1. This is a lengthy but, unfortunately, only a passing reference to these land registers. Firestone did not make use of the registers for any published research that I am aware of. He appears not to have recognized their historical and historiographical importance, commenting in this footnote merely that "while the Ottoman [*yoklama*] registers do list an area for each entry, this was based on the owner's declaration, which was made only for the sake of form *and bore no relation to reality*". (Ibid., emphasis added.) .