

relied on early- and/or late-Ottoman data,¹⁴³ as Mustafa Dabbagh's research indicates, the administrative borders of the Hebron district shifted with some frequency, particularly in the late-Ottoman period. Classifications of settlements shifted as well, not necessarily related to changes on the ground. These two factors complicate and may confuse attempts to understand patterns of growth and development, because the basis of measurement – the district – fluctuated. Detailed analysis of the data is imperative.

Mustafa Dabbagh examined Ottoman imperial (*devlet-i aliyye*) yearbooks (*salnames*) and found that the Hebron district consisted of 50 villages and farms (*mezra'as*) in the *salname* of 1888 (1306 H); 52 villages and farms in the 1899 yearbook (1317 H); 52 villages alone in 1903 (1321 H); and 62 villages and farms in 1910 (1328 H).¹⁴⁴ What were the causes of these changes? By way of an indicative answer, we may compare two detailed lists of the district from the same decade, one a provincial (vilayet) list of Hebron's villages and the number of *hanes* in them in 1871, and the other the *emlak*-registration register of 1876.

¹⁴³ Ehud Toledano, "The *Sanjaq* of Jerusalem in the Sixteenth Century – Patterns of Rural Settlement and Demographic Trends", in Amnon Cohen, ed., *Jerusalem in the Early Ottoman Period* (Jerusalem: Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi, 1979): 69-92; Moshe Brawer, "Transformation in Arab Rural Settlement in Palestine", in Ruth Kark, ed., *The Land that Became Israel: Studies in historical geography* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1989), 167-180; David Grossman, *Rural Demography and Early Jewish Settlement in Palestine: Distribution and Population Density during the Late Ottoman and Early Mandate Periods*, trans. from Hebrew by Marcia Grossman (New Brunswick, USA and London: Transaction Publishers, 2011); Seth Frantzman, "The Arab settlement of Late Ottoman and Mandatory Palestine: New Village Formation and Settlement Fixation, 1871-1948", PhD dissertation, Hebrew University (June 2010).

¹⁴⁴ *Bilāduna Filastīn*, volume 5, part 2: *Fī Diyār al-Khalīl* (In the Hebron region) second edition, with additions and corrections (Hebron: *Rābiṭat al-Jāmi 'īn* (University Graduates' Union), 1986), 12.