

b. Maṣṣūr Shāīr²⁴⁶, Ahmad b. ‘Abd al-Laṭīf ‘Abd al-Dāim,²⁴⁷ and ‘Aliyān b. Sālim Hasan. It can be assumed that these four are representatives of the main families of the two *hamulas* that until today comprise this small village.²⁴⁸ The ordering of names and properties in the register gives some indication of this. Among the five Shāīrs, Ḥamdān is the first listed. Among the three Hussān’s, ‘Ali is also the first to be listed.²⁴⁹ The equality of the four shares of field-crop land indicates that village *tarla* lands were communal, or they had recently been divided among the families, or that this division represented the existing *musha* division among them, even though the properties were not recorded as such.

Types of Property Registration Part II: Musha (مشاع)

Musha has been a subject of interest and debate by researchers for more than a century. It has been variably defined as a category of land ownership like *miri* and *mülk*,²⁵⁰ a system of land

²⁴⁶ His family name is written in two variations in the register: Abu Sh’ar and Sh’air,

²⁴⁷ He is also referred to as Ahmad b. ‘Abd al-Laṭīf ‘Eid and, simply, Ahmad b. ‘Abd al-Laṭīf.

²⁴⁸ This pattern has been easier to identify in other villages. According to Jab’a village history, there are two main *hamulas* in the village until today. The *Mushā’ila* consists of three families: Abu Lawḥa, Abu Laṭīfa, and Ḥamdān. The other *hamula*, the Ṭūs, is made up of two family groups: Ahmad and Husayn. See the 2009 article by Dr. Muhib (Abu Muhind) Abu Lawḥa at palestineremembered.com/GeoPoints/al_Jab_a_1022/Article_16021.html, accessed 27 May 2015.

²⁴⁹ ‘Aliyān and Ahmad b. ‘Abd al-Laṭīf’s other family-group members are not readily identifiable from the list of names.

²⁵⁰ Roger Owen, *The Middle East in the World Economy 1880-1914* (London and New York: I.B. Tauris, 1984), 256 (and discussion 256-259); Kenneth Stein (1984), 14, and following him more recently, Michael Ewing, “Land Acquisition in Palestine in the Late Ottoman Period”, www.historian-nyu.com/michael-ewing---land-acquisition-in-palestine-in-the-late-ottoman-period.html#_ftn10, posted 2013; accessed 23 February 2015.