

garden valued at 250 kuruş, and the latter a one-dunam vineyard, valued at 625 kuruş.³⁴⁸ It is not clear from the records in whose residences these three lived. None of them registered a home in their own names.

Needless to say, landed assets were not the only type of property rural villagers could amass. The Hebron district's registers of sheep and goat taxes, which were assessed on the head, would be invaluable for gaining a fuller picture of Hebron's rural economy, could one be located. Leatherworks and especially the manufacture of goatskin bags and, less frequently, camel bags formed a sizeable and profitable industry in Hebron. Ottoman central-government and military records indicate that over the course of the nineteenth century orders were placed in Hebron for thousands of these sturdy water vessels at a time, to supply the needs of hajj caravans and the Ottoman army.³⁴⁹ Inheritance records and inheritance-related court cases in Islamic-law court archives also point to the economic value of this industry. To illustrate, among the possessions of Hajj 'Abd al-Razzāq b. al-Hajj Muhammad Sidr of Hebron upon his death in the early 1880s were 180 goatskin leather water bags, whose value alone totaled nine thousand kuruş, several times larger than the majority of bequests recorded in Hebron's shari' court in this period.³⁵⁰ Villagers were active

³⁴⁸ Ibid., entries #149, 368 (agricultural properties).

³⁴⁹ Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA) C. ML 16/741, dated 16 Muharram 1215 (9.6.1800), and C.DH. 27/1321, dated 3 Şubat 1216 *malıyya* (15.2.1803), and C.AS 390 / 16128, dated 18 Rabi I 1218 (6.8.1803), and I.AS. 4/1311 RA-12, dated 21 Rabi II 1311 (2.10.1893).

³⁵⁰ HR 15 / 10 / 15 (27 Muharram 1310 / 21 August 1892). The case took place ten years after Hajj 'Abd al-Razzāq had passed away..