

Translated by C. Pennacchini

Cattle herding and repopulation of ranches in the local context of Buenos Aires: The role of a landowning neighbor of La Matanza during the first decades of the 18th century

Mauro Luis Pelozatto Reilly

Universidad Nacional de La Matanza, Escuela de Formación Continua, San Justo, Argentina.

Abstract

The following paper intends analyze different farm productive activities in the area corresponding to the present Province of Buenos Aires. The objective is to carry out this study from a different perspective: within the local context and from the perspective of the participation of certain social actors in the production processes. With this aim, a study of livestock herding, the colonial ranch (estancia) and the production for the market of Buenos Aires will be done; this will particularly focus on the performance within this framework of a landowning neighbor of La Matanza: don Juan de Rocha. He, as seen later, performed different economic and political activities related to the Town Council of Buenos Aires. He was the main regulator of livestock production for this period corresponding to the first half of the eighteenth century. The main idea of this article is to appreciate the relationship between the character (Juan de Rocha), the political bodies (City Hall, Mayor's Office, etc.) and the productive forms (herding of livestock, ranches, farms, etc.) within the regional context of Buenos Aires and the local framework of La Matanza.

Keywords: town council, livestock herding, ranches, livestock repopulation, Brotherhood Mayor's Office