

Pietro Tamagni e Pietro Sarina: dalla Morobbia all'Australia

DI **DIEGO SANTINI**

► Pietro Tamagni nacque a Sant'Antonio il 1° agosto 1815, figlio di Giovanni Pietro e Giacomina Lazzari. Primo di sette fratelli, era zio di Pietro Sarina, nato a Sant'Antonio il 24 ottobre 1841 da Giovanni e Maria Tamagni, secondo di undici figli. Zio e nipote emigrarono verso l'Australia nel maggio del 1855, pagando 225 franchi di biglietto all'agenzia Oswald. Si imbarcarono ad Anversa sul vascello *Heilige Ludwina*, comandato dal capitano Lomeressee. Il viaggio durò la bellezza di 140 giorni e divenne tristemente famoso per le pessime condizioni alle quali furono sottoposti i passeggeri. Per tutta la traversata scarseggiarono cibo e cuccette e ciò innescò diversi conflitti fra passeggeri ed equipaggio. In realtà il cibo c'era, ma il capitano aveva ordinato di venderlo separatamente per ricavarne un profitto personale. A poco a poco tutti i passeggeri rimasero senza soldi. Terminato il denaro, iniziarono a cedere i loro indumenti in cambio di cibo. Arrivati a Melbourne, Lomeressee non volle attraccare nonostante ciò fosse previsto. Probabilmente temeva d'essere obbligato a rimborsare i passeggeri per non aver rispettato le norme contrattuali. Arrivati a Sydney, le autorità presero sul serio le lamentele dei 176 emigranti e Lomeressee fu arrestato.

Di Pietro Tamagni si hanno poche notizie. Forse all'inizio tentò la fortuna nei campi auriferi di Araluen, ma poi si dedicò all'agricoltura, attività più consona alle sue conoscenze. Il 1° aprile 1864 ottenne la cittadinanza australiana. Morì celibe non lontano da Araluen a 52 anni, il 14 settembre 1871. Pietro Sarina, invece, divenne noto come uno dei fondatori di Balmain, oggi quartiere di Sydney. Trovò lavoro presso un certo John Booth che nel 1854 aveva un mulino con sega a vapore a Balmain. Ottenuta la cittadinanza nel 1868, il 16 marzo 1871 Pietro sposò l'anglicana Anne Greenwell. Facendo ciò, infranse la tradizione che prescriveva di contrarre matrimonio unicamente con persone della stessa fede religiosa. I due

ebbero sette figli, tutti nati a Balmain: Arthur Frederick (1872), Delida Julia (1874), Walter George (1876), Ada (1878), Edward "Eddie" Charles (1880), Henry Albert (1882) e Maria "Marine" Tamagni (1883).

Divenuto responsabile della segheria di John Booth, Pietro Sarina investì il suo denaro nell'acquisto di terreni. Ciò gli permise di diventare una delle persone più importanti di Balmain. Il 20 agosto 1883 ebbe un incidente sul lavoro che gli causò gravi ferite. Trasportato all'ospedale, vi morì

il 24 agosto. La notizia della sua morte fu riportata sul *Sydney Morning Herald* in concomitanza con quella della nascita della sua ultima figlia Maria, alla quale fu dato anche il cognome Tamagni in ricordo della madre di Pietro. La moglie Anne Greenwell morì nel 1923. Fra i discendenti di Pietro Sarina vi furono due nipoti che in maniera diversa fecero parlare di sé: Harold Norman Sarina, figlio del primogenito Arthur, fu segretario della potente associazione *Royal Agricultural Society*. Il secondo, Ronald Grafton Sarina, figlio di Walter George, divenne molto ricco. In un'intervista dichiarò di possedere beni per un milione di dollari. Coinvolto in un contenzioso con le autorità fiscali del New South Wales, per tre anni rifiutò di pagare le tasse. Non essendo riuscito a trovare un accordo, nel luglio del 1975



NEW SOUTH WALES.

STATE OF NATURALIZATION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACTS OF THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL,
XI VICTORIA, No. 39, AND XVII VICTORIA, No. 8.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of New South Wales, passed in the Eleventh year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act to amend the last relating to Aliens within the Colony of New South Wales," and of another Act of the said Governor and Legislative Council, passed in the Seventeenth year of the Reign of Her said Majesty, intituled "An Act to amend the Act relating to the Naturalization of Aliens," *Pietro Sarina* — has presented to me a Memorial, in the form and manner prescribed by the said first recited Act, praying that he may be naturalized: And whereas I have inquired into the truth of the circumstances set forth in the said Memorial: Now, I, the Governor as aforesaid, do hereby certify, that it has been established to my satisfaction, that *Pietro Sarina* is a native of *Italy* — is *twenty seven* years of age, and is a *Lawyer* and that having arrived by the Ship *Santa da Nina* in the year *1853* he is now residing in *Balmain* — and *wishing to purchase land*

— he desires to obtain the advantages of the said Act: And I do therefore grant unto the said *Pietro Sarina* — (upon his taking before one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, or before a Police Magistrate, or Bench of Magistrates in Petty Sessions assembled, or before a person deputed by a Judge of the said Court for the purpose, the Oath prescribed by the said last recited Act), all the rights and capacities within the said Colony of New South Wales, of a natural born British Subject.

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal, at Government House, Sydney, NEW SOUTH WALES, aforesaid, this *fourth* — day of *September* — One thousand eight hundred and sixty eight —

By His Excellency's Command,

Henry Parkes

Balmain



Note.—

OATH

I, *Pietro Sarina*

do solemnly promise and swear, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, as lawful Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of this Colony of New South Wales, dependent on and belonging to the said United Kingdom; and that I will defend Her to the utmost of my power against all traitorous conspiracies and attempts whatsoever, which shall be made against Her Person, Crown, and Dignity; and that I will do my utmost endeavour to make known to Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, all treasons, and traitorous conspiracies and attempts which I shall know to be against Her or any of them. So help me God

Pietro Sarina

Taken and Subscribed the *Seventeenth* day

September 1868

Before us

H. Norman

*A Commissioner &c
duly authorized
in this behalf.*

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS & STAFF OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF N.S.W.



A. W. SKIDMORE.
Assistant Secretary and Accountant



G. C. SOMERVILLE.
Secretary



H. N. SARINA.
Registrar

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The King and Queen of Warragamba!

FIRST OFFICIAL PHOTO

Hot off, and on your feet, please, for their majesties King Ron and Queen Dorothea of Warragamba . . . And turn to Page 5 for a special report from the Kingdom of Freedom, by the Mirror's special royal reporter, Janice Beaumont. The king and queen are pictured left in full regalia — complete with a golf club as a sceptre.

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fondò l'Independent Religious State of Freedom e si autoproclamò Re del Regno di Warragamba! La notizia apparve su diversi giornali, ma com'era da prevedere il suo regno ebbe breve durata.

QUEEN DOROTHEA, NOT FEELING UP TO A GARDEN PARTY, GRANTS AN AUDIENCE IN PINK BED SOCKS

Hold on to your crown, Prince Leonard of the Hutt River Province — King Ron of Warragamba has hit the scene.

A former golfing pro, His Highness sat in the sun waiting for us, his favorite club resting on the royal knee.

We found him on the verandah outside the kiosk at the amusement park he and Queen Dorothea own just outside Warragamba.

"It's really the wife's show," the King said modestly, surveying the merry-go-round and the jockey-dip stall.

Actually, Her Majesty **WANTS Horses!**

She is just out of hospital after a burst appendix.

But she graciously rallied long enough to allow us to photograph them in regal regalia we borrowed for them from The Elizabethan Theatre Trust. (Ron's not so far into royalty he's got his own, yet.)

Slippers

"She's as strong as an ox — look at her, only out of hospital yesterday," the King said peevishly.

"You can't keep her down."

Queen Dorothea wasn't quite up to turning on a royal garden party, but she held her side and stood straight like a good comatose.

It didn't seem to matter that she was wearing a purple quilted dressing gown, pink slippers and pink bed-socks.

The crown and her bearing were all you saw.

In case you couldn't read, yesterday's Mirror

'I met my King at a Salvos dance'

By JANISE BEAUMONT

(We had an industrial problem and couldn't print as many as usual) this is not a joke:

The Warragamba Monarch is self-declared millionaire Ron Sarina who has seceded from the State of New South Wales.

He did the deed last July, but came back into the new this week when his failure to pay income tax for the last three years took him to court.

He was fined \$180 and \$38 costs and given until September 28 to pay.

King Ron does not recognise the Income Tax Act nor the court and is

prepared to die rather than pay the fine. "I could pay, but then I couldn't live with myself," he explained.

"When they come to get me I'll go passively, but they'll have a fight on their hands once I get out."

Privy Council

"They will have arrested a person from a Foreign State, and I'm prepared to go to the Privy Council or even the United Nations over this."

"I've got the money to fight them — I've got \$25,000 in cash and my assets are worth \$1 million."

"Tell you what, I'd rather be shot than let those distillers win — they've taken away all incentive for people to work — that's one of the reasons I did what I did."

His Majesty sees it that



King Ron takes a smoke while working on the royal amusement park.

The name of the king — His Majesty explained — is IRSDOF, which stands for the Independent Religious State Of Freedom. We're not

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Nelle foto:

- 1 Pietro Giovanni Sarina.
- 2 Il certificato di naturalizzazione di Pietro Sarina, datato 4 settembre 1868.
- 3 Il giuramento di fedeltà alla Corona, sottoscritto da Pietro Sarina.
- 4 Harold Norman Sarina, segretario della Royal Agricultural Society e nipote di Pietro.
- 5 Ronald Grafton Sarina, alias King Ron, con la moglie Dorothea. *Daily Mirror*, 28 agosto 1975. Lo scettro è in realtà una mazza da golf.
- 6 King Ron Sarina. *Daily Mirror*, 28 agosto 1975.