## **SWAN, Charles Robertson**

Charles Robertson Swan was born in 1880, at Fitzroy, Melbourne, Victoria, the son of Henry William & Martha (nee Robertson) Swan.

In 1907 he married Kate Emma Davidson Parry, in Victoria.

Kate was born on 19th May 1881, at Norwood, South Australia.

‘SILVER WEDDING. - SWAN-PARRY. - December 23 1907 at St. Barnabas` Church of England, Balwyn, Melbourne, by the Rev Joseph Allen, Charles Robertson, second son of Martha and the late Henry William Swan of Canterbury, Melbourne, to Kate E. Davidson, eldest daughter of Henry James and Frances Mary Parry, of Balwyn, Melbourne.’**1**

Children to the marriage were:

1909 - Raoul Robertson, at Brighton, Victoria [died 1931]

6th April 1911 - Una Parry, at Chatswood, N.S.W. [died 2003]**2**

In January 1912 their home, *Kunawore*, Spofford-street, near Florence-street, Mosman, was advertised for rent. "*Kunawore*" is an aboriginal name, meaning Swan's nest.**3**

In 1913 they were living at Railway-crescent, Beecroft.**4**

In May 1915 a brother of C. R. Swan, George Leslie Swan, bank clerk, of Melbourne, enlisted for active service [WW1]. He served overseas and returned to Australia in June 1919.**5**

In January 1916 Mr. C. R. Swan returned to Beecroft from a six months' trip to the old country [England].**6**

By 1917 the family were living at *Kunawore*, Hannah-street, Beecroft {situated on the corner of Hannah-street (west) and Hull-street.

This home was put up for sale in January 1919. The home is described as a 7-roomed bungalow; land 89 x 280 feet.**7**

The Swan family then moved to 11 Malton-road, Beecroft, also to be called “Kunawore.”

In July 1926 Mrs. C. R. Swan was honorary secretary of the Red Cross Appeal committee.**8**

On 15th April 1931 their son, Raoul Robertson Swan, of *Kunawore*, Malton-road, Beecroft, died at the Royal Prince of Wales Hospital, aged 22 years. His remains left St. John’s Church of England, Beecroft, for the Rookwood Crematorium.**9**

In April 1932 it was reported that ‘Mrs. Swan’s hobby was collecting damaged teapots, of which she had a large number. Visitors pay a small fee to see them and the whole of this money is donated to hospitals.’**10**

In 1933 & 1934, living at 11 Malton-road, Beecroft, was Una Parry Swan (nurse); at 13 [error – should be no. 11] Malton-road, Beecroft, lived Charles Robertson Swan (indentor) & his wife Kate Emma Swan.**11**

In 1934 Mrs. Swan was still involved with the Beecroft-Cheltenham branch of the Red Cross Society.**12**

In November it was reported that ‘Miss [Una] Swan has been awarded the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital's medal for general proficiency for four years' training. She is at present at the Queen Charlotte Hospital, London, and at the conclusion of her training there will enter the London University for further study.’

MISS UNA SWAN.

**13**

For 1935, 1936, 1937 & 1943 Charles Robertson Swan (indentor) & Kate Emma Swan were living at 13 [?] Malton Road, Beecroft.**14**

In March 1935 there was ‘a further opportunity to be given by Mrs. C. R. Swan, of Malton-road, Beecroft, to view her unique collection of teapots. Admission will be by silver coin, and the proceeds will be devoted to the Church of England Homes.’**15**

In October 1935 Mr. & Mrs. Swan returned from a trip to England.**16**

By September 1936 Una Swan had been appointed assistant sister tutor at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, after spending the previous two and a half years in England.17

In February 1937 Mrs. C. R. Swan, honorary secretary of the Dickens Fellowship, Sydney branch, celebrated with other members, at *Kunawore,* the anniversary of Charles Dicken’s birth on 7th February 1812, and also allowed inspection of her 312 teapots. She impersonated Mrs. Jarley from "The Old Curiosity Shop." Part of the house where her teapots were on display was known as Teapot Inn.**18**

In May 1937 an in-depth newspaper report of her hobby was published, entitled “The Sydney Hostess of 314 Teapots.”

**19**

In November 1937 another newspaper, under the title “Women you ought to know about – No. 20” reported that Mrs. Swan had two diverse hobbies – collecting teapots and the Dickens Fellowship.

**20**

In 1941 Mrs. Swan was still the honorary secretary of the Beecroft-Cheltenham branch of the Red Cross Society.**21**

In 1946 Mr. C. R. Swan died.

‘SWAN. - On December 8 [actually 9th], at Sydney, Charles Robertson, (of Beecroft, N.S.W.) loved husband of Tussy, father of Raoul (deceased) and Una (Mrs. Boyce, Auckland, N.Z.), son of the late Henry William and Martha Swan (formerly of Cross street, Canterbury), loved brother of Henry James (deceased), George Leslie (East Malvern). Ernest William (East Malvern), and Arthur Robert (deceased).’

Address reported as 11 Malton-road, Beecroft.

‘RE will of CHARLES ROBERTSON SWAN, late of Beecroft, near Sydney, in the State of New South Wales, manufacturer, deceased.—Letters of administration granted by Supreme Court of New South Wales on 6th July, 1951.’**22**

In 1947 Mrs. C. R. Swan died.

SWAN, Kate Emma Davidson. — November 14, 1947, at her residence, 11 Malton Road, Beecroft, widow of the late Charles Robertson Swan, beloved mother of Una (Mrs. Boyce), loving grandmother of Peter, Michael and Robin Boyce, aged 66 years.**23**

**Bibliography**

1 Ancestry.com; Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Thursday 22 December 1932, page 8

2 Ancestry.com

3 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 13 January 1912, page 24

4 1913 Electoral Roll

5 AWM records

6 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 15 January 1916, page 8

7 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Wednesday 22 January 1919, page 10

8 Sun (Sydney, NSW: 1910 - 1954), Friday 23 July 1926, page 3

9 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Thursday 16 April 1931, page 8

10 Southern Mail (Bowral, NSW: 1889 - 1954), Friday 22 April 1932, page 2

11 1933 Electoral Roll

12 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Thursday 5 July 1934, page 6

13 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Wednesday 7 November 1934, page 7

14 1935, 1936, 1937 & 1943 Electoral Rolls

15 Sun (Sydney, NSW: 1910 - 1954), Friday 22 March 1935, page 9

16 Ancestry.com

17 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Friday 18 September 1936, page 4

18 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Thursday 4 February 1937, page 20

19 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Tuesday 11 May 1937, page 16

20 Sun (Sydney, NSW: 1910 - 1954), Thursday 11 November 1937, page 32

21 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1931 - 1954), Monday 17 November 1941, page 6

22 Argus (Melbourne, Vic.: 1848 - 1957), Tuesday 10 December 1946, page 2; Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Wednesday 11 December 1946, page 24; Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales (Sydney, NSW: 1901 - 2001), Friday 27 July 1951 (No.123), page 2193

23 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 15 November 1947, page 40

**NOTE**: Additional information contained within Beecroft Cheltenham History Group website.