

Stanley David Porteus

Stanley David Porteus was born in Box Hill, Victoria, Australia in 1883, the only son of a Methodist minister. Like other now large suburbs of Melbourne such as Canterbury, Mitcham and Ringwood, Box Hill was a mere village. Each was surrounded by bush. He grew up like most Australian boys with a love of sport and, although lightly built, did quite well at Australian Rules football and was above average at cricket.

He became a schoolteacher with the Victorian Education Department. Promotion within the department depended on experience gained at teaching in tiny rural schools so he applied for such a position at Glenaladale, on the Dargo Road, some 35 miles north west of Bairnsdale.

He walked about 6 miles from the nearest railway station at Fernbank to find the school surrounded by virgin forest with only one dwelling in sight. Attached to the school were lean-to rooms that were to be his residence for the next 2 ½ years. He was fascinated by the nearby Den of Nargun and Bull Creek, which joined the Mitchell River in a deep gorge containing a profusion of rainforest vegetation.

While at Glenaladale, he met Frances Evans who became his wife. To seek promotion, he left Glenaladale and taught at Leneva and Benambra. While at the latter school, he learned of a position becoming available as superintendent of special schools in Melbourne.

As the available means of transport, coach and horses to Bairnsdale, then by train to Melbourne, would not get him to Melbourne before the close of applications, he borrowed a bicycle and rode through the bush some 80 miles to his in-laws home at Lindenow from where he caught a train to Melbourne and thus made it before the deadline.

He was successful in his application and it set him on a course that led to him becoming Australia's first Clinical Psychologist. His work, particularly, the development of the Porteus Maze Test, attracted the attention of American educators and he was offered an appointment for a year at Vineland Training School in New Jersey.

On a stopover in Honolulu, he was impressed to the extent that he expressed a desire to work there. Not the least of its attractions was the mix of races that offered opportunities to study psychological differences, if any, between various races. His wish was to be granted unexpectedly as he was, in 1919, invited to Honolulu to set up a Psychological and Psychopathic Clinic at the University of Hawaii.

From his home in the hills north of Honolulu, on December 7th 1941, he saw the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. He lived there until his death in about 1980.

Providence Ponds.

By Stanley D. Porteus.

A Novel of Early Australia.

\$25.00 including Postage
Scott Reunion Committee
Bairnsdale Vic 3875

All proceeds go to the maintenance of Delvine Cemetery.



Born in Box Hill, Melbourne in 1883, Stanley Porteus, son of a Methodist Minister, grew up in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne. He became a schoolteacher and, in 1904, took up a position at Glenaladale School, situated on the Bairnsdale – Dargo Road some forty miles north west of Bairnsdale.

During the 2½ years he spent at Glenaladale, Porteus wooed and won Frances Evans of Lindenow. Frances' maternal grandmother was Catherine Scott, who as a six-year-old in 1845, travelled with her parents and other members of her family from Monaro to Gippsland becoming one of the early pioneer families of the Bairnsdale District. There is little doubt that the story of Providence Ponds draws on discussions Porteus had with her about the earliest days of white settlement in the area.

Porteus' career lead to his appointment to the position of Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Hawaii. He was the author of a number of books including his autobiography, *A Psychologist of Sorts*.

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Fonctions assumées:

Superintendent of Special Education, Education Dept. Victoria,
Australia 1912-1928
Government Research Scholar, Anatomy Dept., University of Melbourne 1914.
Co-director of Educational Anthropology 1915
Lecturer, Experimental Education, University of Melbourne 1916.

Director of Research, Psychological Laboratory, Vineland, N.J. 1919
 Professor of Clinical Psychology; Director, Psychological and Psychopathic Clinic, University of Hawaii
 1922-1948 Referee juvenile Court, Honolulu 1950
 Leader Expedition to North West and Central Australia, 1929 Leader Expedition to Kalahari Desert,
 South Africa, 1934
 Psychological Consultant, Hospital for Mentally Disordered Persons
 Kaneohe Hawaii, 1942
 Member American Psychological Association, 1920 .Life Member 1948

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Longmans Green & Co., New York, 1932
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