

FILE *Famous People*

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# STORIES of New Jersey

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1060 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey

## STEPHEN CRANE



Stephen Crane, who in a short life of less than 30 years, won for himself a lasting place among the great American authors, was a native of New Jersey. Though in his varied career he wandered through Europe and America, New Jersey was, more than any other, the place he could call home. And it was in New Jersey soil that he was finally laid to rest among his ancestors.

Stephen Crane was born on November 1, 1871 to Reverend Jonathan and Mary Crane in the Methodist Parsonage at 14 Mulberry Place, Newark. At that time Mulberry Place was one of the city's best residential streets. Today the house in which Stephen was born is crowded among closely packed, tumble-down buildings.

The Crane family had figured prominently in the affairs of New Jersey and of the nation for generations. It was a Crane who founded the city of Montclair, which for a time was called Cranetown. Another was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. It was for him that Jonathan named his fourteenth and last child, Stephen.

Young Stephen, a delicate child, was subject to severe colds; and it was not until he was eight years old and the family had moved to Port Jervis, New York that he was allowed to attend school. He had been taught to read and write at home, and, once in school, seemed to have little difficulty in keeping step with his contemporaries.

In the quiet country town Stephen lived the life of a normal school boy. He liked school no more than any boy of his age, but he did like horses and dogs. This liking remained with him to the end of his life.

In 1882 the family moved to Asbury Park where Stephen's brother, Townley, conducted a news service for the Newark and Philadelphia newspapers. Here young Stephen achieved a small fame in baseball. He boasted that no one could