

= Stephen Crane =

Stephen Crane (November 1 , 1871 ? June 5 , 1900) was an American poet , novelist , and short story writer . Prolific throughout his short life , he wrote notable works in the Realist tradition as well as early examples of American Naturalism and Impressionism . He is recognized by modern critics as one of the most innovative writers of his generation .

The ninth surviving child of Protestant Methodist parents , Crane began writing at the age of four and had published several articles by the age of 16 . Having little interest in university studies , he left college in 1891 to work as a reporter and writer . Crane 's first novel was the 1893 Bowery tale *Maggie : A Girl of the Streets* , generally considered by critics to be the first work of American literary Naturalism . He won international acclaim in 1895 for his Civil War novel *The Red Badge of Courage* , which he wrote without having any battle experience .

In 1896 , Crane endured a highly publicized scandal after appearing as a witness in the trial of a suspected prostitute , an acquaintance named Dora Clark . Late that year he accepted an offer to travel to Cuba as a war correspondent . As he waited in Jacksonville , Florida , for passage , he met Cora Taylor , with whom he began a lasting relationship . En route to Cuba , Crane 's vessel the SS *Commodore* , sank off the coast of Florida , leaving him and others adrift for 30 hours in a dinghy . Crane described the ordeal in " *The Open Boat* " . During the final years of his life , he covered conflicts in Greece (accompanied by Cora , recognized as the first woman war correspondent) and later lived in England with her . He was befriended by writers such as Joseph Conrad and H. G. Wells . Plagued by financial difficulties and ill health , Crane died of tuberculosis in a Black Forest sanatorium in Germany at the age of 28 .

At the time of his death , Crane was considered an important figure in American literature . After he was nearly forgotten for two decades , critics revived interest in his life and work . Crane 's writing is characterized by vivid intensity , distinctive dialects , and irony . Common themes involve fear , spiritual crises and social isolation . Although recognized primarily for *The Red Badge of Courage* , which has become an American classic , Crane is also known for his poetry , journalism , and short stories such as " *The Open Boat* " , " *The Blue Hotel* " , " *The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky* " , and *The Monster* . His writing made a deep impression on 20th @-@ century writers , most prominent among them Ernest Hemingway , and is thought to have inspired the Modernists and the Imagists .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early years = = =

Stephen Crane was born on November 1 , 1871 , in Newark , New Jersey , to Jonathan Townley Crane , a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church , and Mary Helen Peck Crane , daughter of a clergyman , George Peck . He was the fourteenth and last child born to the couple . At 45 , Helen Crane had suffered the early deaths of her previous four children , each of whom died within one year of birth . Nicknamed " Stevie " by the family , he joined eight surviving brothers and sisters ? Mary Helen , George Peck , Jonathan Townley , William Howe , Agnes Elizabeth , Edmund Byran , Wilbur Fiske , and Luther .

The Cranes were descended from Jaspar Crane , a founder of New Haven Colony , who had migrated there from England in 1639 . Stephen was named for a putative founder of Elizabethtown , New Jersey , who had , according to family tradition , come from England or Wales in 1665 , as well as his great @-@ great @-@ grandfather Stephen Crane (1709 ? 1780) , a Revolutionary War patriot who served as New Jersey delegate to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia . Crane later wrote that his father , Dr. Crane , " was a great , fine , simple mind , " who had written numerous tracts on theology . Although his mother was a popular spokeswoman for the Woman 's Christian Temperance Union and a highly religious woman , Crane wrote that he did not believe " she was as narrow as most of her friends or family . " The young Stephen was raised primarily by his sister Agnes , who was 15 years his senior . The family moved to Port Jervis , New York , in

1876 , where Dr. Crane became the pastor of Drew Methodist Church , a position that he retained until his death .

As a child , Stephen was often sickly and afflicted by constant colds . When the boy was almost two , his father wrote in his diary that his youngest son became " so sick that we are anxious about him . " Despite his fragile nature , Crane was an intelligent child who taught himself to read before the age of four . His first known inquiry , recorded by his father , dealt with writing ; at the age of three , while imitating his brother Townley 's writing , he asked his mother , " how do you spell O ? " In December 1879 , Crane wrote a poem about wanting a dog for Christmas . Entitled " I 'd Rather Have ? " , it is his first surviving poem . Stephen was not regularly enrolled in school until January 1880 , but he had no difficulty in completing two grades in six weeks . Recalling this feat , he wrote that it " sounds like the lie of a fond mother at a teaparty , but I do remember that I got ahead very fast and that father was very pleased with me . "

Dr. Crane died on February 16 , 1880 , at the age of 60 ; Stephen was eight years old . Some 1 @, @ 400 people mourned Dr. Crane at his funeral , more than double the size of his congregation . After her husband 's death , Mrs. Crane moved to Roseville , near Newark , leaving Stephen in the care of his older brother Edmund , with whom the young boy lived with cousins in Sussex County . He next lived with his brother William , a lawyer , in Port Jervis for several years .

His older sister Helen took him to Asbury Park to be with their brother Townley and his wife , Fannie . Townley was a professional journalist ; he headed the Long Branch department of both the New @-@ York Tribune and the Associated Press , and also served as editor of the Asbury Park Shore Press . Agnes , another Crane sister , joined the siblings in New Jersey . She took a position at Asbury Park 's intermediate school and moved in with Helen to care for the young Stephen .

Within a couple of years , the Crane family suffered more losses . First , Townley and his wife lost their two young children . His wife Fannie died of Bright 's disease in November 1883 . Agnes Crane became ill and died on June 10 , 1884 , of meningitis at the age of 28 .

= = = Schooling = = =

Crane wrote his first known story , " Uncle Jake and the Bell Handle " , when he was 14 . In late 1885 , he enrolled at Pennington Seminary , a ministry @-@ focused coeducational boarding school 7 miles (11 km) north of Trenton . His father had been principal there from 1849 to 1858 . Soon after her youngest son left for school , Mrs. Crane began suffering what the Asbury Park Shore Press reported as " a temporary aberration of the mind . " She had apparently recovered by early 1886 , but later that year , her son , 23 @-@ year @-@ old Luther Crane , died after falling in front of an oncoming train while working as a flagman for the Erie Railroad . It was the fourth death in six years among Stephen 's immediate family .

After two years , Crane left Pennington for Claverack College , a quasi @-@ military school . He later looked back on his time at Claverack as " the happiest period of my life although I was not aware of it . " A classmate remembered him as a highly literate but erratic student , lucky to pass examinations in math and science , and yet " far in advance of his fellow students in his knowledge of History and Literature " , his favorite subjects . While he held an impressive record on the drill field and baseball diamond , Crane generally did not excel in the classroom . Not having a middle name , as was customary among other students , he took to signing his name " Stephen T. Crane " in order " to win recognition as a regular fellow " . Crane was seen as friendly , but also moody and rebellious . He sometimes skipped class in order to play baseball , a game in which he starred as catcher . He was also greatly interested in the school 's military training program . He rose rapidly in the ranks of the student battalion . One classmate described him as " indeed physically attractive without being handsome " , but he was aloof , reserved and not generally popular at Claverack . Although academically weak , Crane gained experience at Claverack that provided background (and likely some anecdotes from the Civil War veterans on the staff) that proved useful when he came to write The Red Badge of Courage .

In mid @-@ 1888 , Crane became his brother Townley 's assistant at a New Jersey shore news bureau , working there every summer until 1892 . Crane 's first publication under his byline was an

article on the explorer Henry M. Stanley 's famous quest to find the Scottish missionary David Livingstone in Africa . It appeared in the February 1890 Claverack College Vidette . Within a few months , Crane was persuaded by his family to forgo a military career and transfer to Lafayette College in Easton , Pennsylvania , in order to pursue a mining engineering degree . He registered at Lafayette on September 12 , and promptly became involved in extracurricular activities ; he took up baseball again and joined the largest fraternity , Delta Upsilon . He also joined both rival literary societies , named for (George) Washington and (Benjamin) Franklin . Crane infrequently attended classes and ended the semester with grades for four of the seven courses he had taken .

After one semester , Crane transferred to Syracuse University , where he enrolled as a non @-@ degree candidate in the College of Liberal Arts . He roomed in the Delta Upsilon fraternity house and joined the baseball team . Attending just one class (English Literature) during the middle trimester , he remained in residence while taking no courses in the third semester .

Concentrating on his writing , Crane began to experiment with tone and style while trying out different subjects . He published his fictional story , " Great Bugs of Onondaga , " simultaneously in the Syracuse Daily Standard and the New York Tribune . Declaring college " a waste of time " , Crane decided to become a full @-@ time writer and reporter . He attended a Delta Upsilon chapter meeting on June 12 , 1891 , but shortly afterward left college for good .

= = = Full @-@ time writer = = =

In the summer of 1891 , Crane often camped with friends in the nearby area of Sullivan County , New York , where his brother Edmund owned a house . He used this area as the geographic setting for several short stories , which were posthumously published in a collection under the title Stephen Crane : Sullivan County Tales and Sketches . Crane showed two of these works to Tribune editor Willis Fletcher Johnson , a friend of the family , who accepted them for the publication . " Hunting Wild Dogs " and " The Last of the Mohicans " were the first of fourteen unsigned Sullivan County sketches and tales that were published in the Tribune between February and July 1892 . Crane also showed Johnson an early draft of his first novel , Maggie : A Girl of the Streets .

Later that summer , Crane met and befriended author Hamlin Garland , who had been lecturing locally on American literature and the expressive arts ; on August 17 he gave a talk on novelist William Dean Howells , which Crane wrote up for the Tribune . Garland became a mentor for and champion of the young writer , whose intellectual honesty impressed him . Their relationship suffered in later years , however , because Garland disapproved of Crane 's alleged immorality , related to his living with a woman married to another man .

Stephen moved into his brother Edmund 's house in Lakeview , a suburb of Paterson , New Jersey , in the fall of 1891 . From here he made frequent trips into New York City , writing and reporting particularly on its impoverished tenement districts . Crane focused particularly on The Bowery , a small and once prosperous neighborhood in the southern part of Manhattan . After the Civil War , Bowery shops and mansions had given way to saloons , dance halls , brothels and flophouses , all of which Crane frequented . He later said he did so for research . He was attracted to the human nature found in the slums , considering it " open and plain , with nothing hidden " . Believing nothing honest and unsentimental had been written about the Bowery , Crane became determined to do so himself ; this was the setting of his first novel . On December 7 , 1891 , Crane 's mother died at the age of 64 , and the 20 @-@ year @-@ old appointed Edmund as his guardian .

Despite being frail , undernourished and suffering from a hacking cough , which did not prevent him from smoking cigarettes , in the spring of 1892 Crane began a romance with Lily Brandon Munroe , a married woman who was estranged from her husband . Although Munroe later said Crane " was not a handsome man " , she admired his " remarkable almond @-@ shaped gray eyes . " He begged her to elope with him , but her family opposed the match because Crane lacked money and prospects , and she declined . Their last meeting likely occurred in April 1898 , when he again asked her to run away with him and she again refused .

Between July 2 and September 11 , 1892 , Crane published at least ten news reports on Asbury Park affairs . Although a Tribune colleague stated that Crane " was not highly distinguished above

any other boy of twenty who had gained a reputation for saying and writing bright things , " that summer his reporting took on a more skeptical , hypocrisy @-@ deflating tone . A storm of controversy erupted over a report he wrote on the Junior Order of United American Mechanics ' American Day Parade , entitled " Parades and Entertainments " . Published on August 21 , the report juxtaposes the " bronzed , slope @-@ shouldered , uncouth " marching men " begrimed with dust " and the spectators dressed in " summer gowns , lace parasols , tennis trousers , straw hats and indifferent smiles " . Believing they were being ridiculed , some JOUAM marchers were outraged and wrote to the editor . The owner of the Tribune , Whitelaw Reid , was that year 's Republican vice @-@ presidential candidate , and this likely increased the sensitivity of the paper 's management to the issue . Although Townley wrote a piece for the Asbury Park Daily Press in his brother 's defense , the Tribune quickly apologized to its readers , calling Stephen Crane 's piece " a bit of random correspondence , passed inadvertently by the copy editor " . Hamlin Garland and biographer John Barry attested that Crane told them he had been dismissed by the Tribune , although Willis Fletcher Johnson later denied this . The paper did not publish any of Crane 's work after 1892 .

= = = Life in New York = = =

Crane struggled to make a living as a free @-@ lance writer , contributing sketches and feature articles to various New York newspapers . In October 1892 , he moved into a rooming house in Manhattan whose boarders were a group of medical students . During this time , he expanded or entirely reworked *Maggie : A Girl of the Streets* , which is about a girl who " blossoms in a mud @-@ puddle " and becomes a pitiful victim of circumstance . In the winter of 1893 , Crane took the manuscript of *Maggie* to Richard Watson Gilder , who rejected it for publication in *The Century Magazine* .

Crane decided to publish it privately , with money he had inherited from his mother . The novel was published in late February or early March 1893 by a small printing shop that usually printed medical books and religious tracts . The typewritten title page for the Library of Congress copyright application read simply : " *A Girl of the Streets* , / *A Story of New York* . / ? By ? / Stephen Crane . " The name " *Maggie* " was added to the title later . Crane used the pseudonym " Johnston Smith " for the novel 's initial publication , later telling friend and artist Corwin Knapp Linson that the nom de plume was the " commonest name I could think of . I had an editor friend named Johnson , and put in the " t " , and no one could find me in the mob of Smiths . " Hamlin Garland reviewed the work in the June 1893 issue of *The Arena* , calling it " the most truthful and unhackneyed study of the slums I have yet read , fragment though it is . " Despite this early praise , Crane became depressed and destitute from having spent \$ 869 for 1 @,@ 100 copies of a novel that did not sell ; he ended up giving a hundred copies away . He would later remember " how I looked forward to publication and pictured the sensation I thought it would make . It fell flat . Nobody seemed to notice it or care for it ... Poor *Maggie* ! She was one of my first loves . "

In March 1893 , Crane spent hours lounging in Linson 's studio while having his portrait painted . He became fascinated with issues of the *Century* that were largely devoted to famous battles and military leaders from the Civil War . Frustrated with the dryly written stories , Crane stated , " I wonder that some of those fellows don 't tell how they felt in those scraps . They spout enough of what they did , but they 're as emotionless as rocks . " Crane returned to these magazines during subsequent visits to Linson 's studio , and eventually the idea of writing a war novel overtook him . He would later state that he " had been unconsciously working the detail of the story out through most of his boyhood " and had imagined " war stories ever since he was out of knickerbockers . " This novel would ultimately become *The Red Badge of Courage* .

From the beginning , Crane wished to show how it felt to be in a war by writing " a psychological portrayal of fear . " Conceiving his story from the point of view of a young private who is at first filled with boyish dreams of the glory of war and then quickly becomes disillusioned by war 's reality , Crane borrowed the private 's surname , " Fleming " , from his sister @-@ in @-@ law 's maiden name . He later said that the first paragraphs came to him with " every word in place , every comma

, every period fixed . " Working mostly nights , he wrote from around midnight until four or five in the morning . Because he could not afford a typewriter , he wrote carefully in ink on legal @-@ sized paper , seldom crossing through or interlining a word . If he did change something , he would rewrite the whole page .

While working on his second novel , Crane remained prolific , concentrating on publishing stories to stave off poverty ; " An Experiment in Misery " , based on Crane 's experiences in the Bowery , was printed by the New York Press . He also wrote five or six poems a day . In early 1894 , he showed some of his poems , or " lines " as he called them , to Hamlin Garland , who said he read " some thirty in all " with " growing wonder . " Although Garland and William Dean Howells encouraged him to submit his poetry for publication , Crane 's free verse was too unconventional for most . After brief wrangling between poet and publisher , Copeland & Day accepted Crane 's first book of poems , The Black Riders and Other Lines , although it would not be published until after The Red Badge of Courage . He received a 10 percent royalty , and the publisher assured him that the book would be in a form " more severely classic than any book ever yet issued in America . "

In the spring of 1894 , Crane offered the finished manuscript of The Red Badge of Courage to McClure 's Magazine , which had become the foremost magazine for Civil War literature . While McClure 's delayed giving him an answer on his novel , they offered him an assignment writing about the Pennsylvania coal mines . " In the Depths of a Coal Mine " , a story with pictures by Linson , was syndicated by McClure 's in a number of newspapers , heavily edited . Crane was reportedly disgusted by the cuts , asking Linson : " Why the hell did they send me up there then ? Do they want the public to think the coal mines gilded ball @-@ rooms with the miners eating ice @-@ cream in boiled shirt @-@ fronts ? "

Sources report that following an encounter with a male prostitute that spring , Crane began a novel on the subject entitled Flowers of Asphalt , which he later abandoned . The manuscript has never been recovered .

After discovering that McClure 's could not afford to pay him , Crane took his war novel to Irving Bacheller of the Bacheller @-@ Johnson Newspaper Syndicate , which agreed to publish The Red Badge of Courage in serial form . Between the third and the ninth of December 1894 , The Red Badge of Courage was published in some half @-@ dozen newspapers in the United States . Although it was greatly cut for syndication , Bacheller attested to its causing a stir , saying " its quality [was] immediately felt and recognized . " The lead editorial in the Philadelphia Press of December 7 said that Crane " is a new name now and unknown , but everybody will be talking about him if he goes on as he has begun " .

= = = Travels and fame = = =

At the end of January 1895 , Crane left on what he called " a very long and circuitous newspaper trip " to the west . While writing feature articles for the Bacheller syndicate , he traveled to Saint Louis , Missouri , Nebraska , New Orleans , Galveston , Texas and then Mexico City . Irving Bacheller would later state that he " sent Crane to Mexico for new color " , which the author found in the form of Mexican slum life . Whereas he found the lower class in New York pitiful , he was impressed by the " superiority " of the Mexican peasants ' contentment and " even refuse [d] to pity them . "

Returning to New York five months later , Crane joined the Lantern (alternately spelled " Lanthom " or " Lanthorne ") Club organized by a group of young writers and journalists . The Club , located on the roof of an old house on William Street near the Brooklyn Bridge , served as a drinking establishment of sorts and was decorated to look like a ship 's cabin . There Crane ate one good meal a day , although friends were troubled by his " constant smoking , too much coffee , lack of food and poor teeth " , as Nelson Greene put it . Living in near @-@ poverty and greatly anticipating the publication of his books , Crane began work on two more novels : The Third Violet and George 's Mother .

The Black Riders was published by Copeland & Day shortly before his return to New York in May , but it received mostly criticism , if not abuse , for the poems ' unconventional style and use of free

verse . A piece in the Bookman called Crane " the Aubrey Beardsley of poetry , " and a commentator from the Chicago Daily Inter @-@ Ocean stated that " there is not a line of poetry from the opening to the closing page . Whitman 's Leaves of Grass were luminous in comparison . Poetic lunacy would be a better name for the book . " In June , the New York Tribune dismissed the book as " so much trash . " Crane was pleased that the book was " making some stir " .

In contrast to the reception for Crane 's poetry , The Red Badge of Courage was welcomed with acclaim after its publication by Appleton in September 1895 . For the next four months the book was in the top six on various bestseller lists around the country . It arrived on the literary scene " like a flash of lightning out of a clear winter sky " , according to H. L. Mencken , who was about 15 at the time . The novel also became popular in Britain ; Joseph Conrad , a future friend of Crane , wrote that the novel " detonated ... with the impact and force of a twelve @-@ inch shell charged with a very high explosive . " Appleton published two , possibly three , printings in 1895 and as many as eleven more in 1896 . Although some critics considered the work overly graphic and profane , it was widely heralded for its realistic portrayal of war and unique writing style . The Detroit Free Press declared that The Red Badge would give readers " so vivid a picture of the emotions and the horrors of the battlefield that you will pray your eyes may never look upon the reality . "

Wanting to capitalize on the success of The Red Badge , McClure Syndicate offered Crane a contract to write a series on Civil War battlefields . Because it was a wish of his to " visit the battlefield ? which I was to describe ? at the time of year when it was fought " , Crane agreed to take the assignment . Visiting battlefields in Northern Virginia , including Fredericksburg , he would later produce five more Civil War tales : " Three Miraculous Soldiers " , " The Veteran " , " An Indiana Campaign " , " An Episode of War " and The Little Regiment .

= = = Scandal = = =

At the age of 24 , Crane , who was reveling in his success , became involved in a highly publicized case involving a suspected prostitute named Dora Clark . At 2 a.m. on September 16 , 1896 , he escorted two chorus girls and Clark from New York City 's Broadway Garden , a popular " resort " where he had interviewed the women for a series he was writing . As Crane saw one woman safely to a streetcar , a plainclothes policeman named Charles Becker arrested the other two for solicitation ; Crane was threatened with arrest when he tried to interfere . One of the women was released after Crane confirmed her erroneous claim that she was his wife , but Clark was charged and taken to the precinct . Against the advice of the arresting sergeant , Crane made a statement confirming Dora Clark 's innocence , stating that " I only know that while with me she acted respectably , and that the policeman 's charge was false . " On the basis of Crane 's testimony , Clark was discharged . The media seized upon the story ; news spread to Philadelphia , Boston and beyond , with papers focusing on Crane 's courage . The Stephen Crane story , as it became known , soon became a source for ridicule ; the Chicago Dispatch in particular quipped that " Stephen Crane is respectfully informed that association with women in scarlet is not necessarily a ' Red Badge of Courage ' " .

A couple of weeks after her trial , Clark pressed charges of false arrest against the officer who had arrested her . The next day , the officer physically attacked Clark in the presence of witnesses for having brought charges against him . Crane , who initially went briefly to Philadelphia to escape the pressure of publicity , returned to New York to give testimony at Becker 's trial despite advice given to him from Theodore Roosevelt , who was Police Commissioner at the time and a new acquaintance of Crane . The defense targeted Crane : police raided his apartment and interviewed people who knew him , trying to find incriminating evidence in order to lessen the effect of his testimony . A vigorous cross @-@ examination took place that sought to portray Crane as a man of dubious morals ; while the prosecution proved that he frequented brothels , Crane claimed this was merely for research purposes . After the trial ended on October 16 , the arresting officer was exonerated , but Crane 's reputation was ruined .

= = = Cora Taylor and the Commodore shipwreck = = =

Given \$ 700 in Spanish gold by the Bacheller @-@ Johnson syndicate to work as a war correspondent in Cuba as the Spanish ? American War was pending , the 25 @-@ year @-@ old Crane left New York on November 27 , 1896 , on a train bound for Jacksonville , Florida . Upon arrival in Jacksonville , he registered at the St. James Hotel under the alias of Samuel Carleton to maintain anonymity while seeking passage to Cuba . While waiting for a boat , he toured the city and visited the local brothels . Within days he met 31 @-@ year @-@ old Cora Taylor , proprietor of the downtown bawdy house Hotel de Dream . Born into a respectable Boston family , Taylor (whose legal name was Cora Ethel Stewart) had already had two brief marriages ; her first husband , Vinton Murphy , divorced her on grounds of adultery . In 1889 , she had married British Captain Donald William Stewart . She left him in 1892 for another man , but was still legally married . By the time Crane arrived , Taylor had been in Jacksonville for two years . She lived a bohemian lifestyle , owned a hotel of assignation , and was a well @-@ known and respected local figure . The two spent much time together while Crane awaited his departure . He was finally cleared to leave for the Cuban port of Cienfuegos on New Year 's Eve aboard the SS Commodore .

The ship sailed from Jacksonville with 27 or 28 men and a cargo of supplies and ammunition for the Cuban rebels . On the St. Johns River and less than 2 miles (3 @. @ 2 km) from Jacksonville , Commodore struck a sandbar in a dense fog and damaged its hull . Although towed off the sandbar the following day , it was beached again in Mayport and again damaged . A leak began in the boiler room that evening and , as a result of malfunctioning water pumps , the ship came to a standstill about 16 miles (26 km) from Mosquito Inlet . As the ship took on more water , Crane described the engine room as resembling " a scene at this time taken from the middle kitchen of hades . " Commodore 's lifeboats were lowered in the early hours of the morning on January 2 , 1897 and the ship ultimately sank at 7 a.m. Crane was one of the last to leave the ship in a 10 @-@ foot (3 @. @ 0 m) dinghy . In an ordeal that he recounted in the short story " The Open Boat " , Crane and three other men (including the ship 's Captain) floundered off the coast of Florida for a day and a half before trying to land the dinghy at Daytona Beach . The small boat overturned in the surf , forcing the exhausted men to swim to shore ; one of them died . Having lost the gold given to him for his journey , Crane wired Cora Taylor for help . She traveled to Daytona and returned to Jacksonville with Crane the next day , only four days after he had left on the Commodore .

The disaster was reported on the front pages of newspapers across the country . Rumors that the ship had been sabotaged were widely circulated but never substantiated . Portrayed favorably and heroically by the press , Crane emerged from the ordeal with his reputation enhanced , if not restored , after the battering he had received in the Dora Clark affair . Meanwhile , Crane 's affair with Taylor blossomed .

Three seasons of archaeological investigation were conducted in 2002 @-@ 04 to examine and document the exposed remains of a wreck near Ponce Inlet , FL conjectured to be that of the SS Commodore . The collected data , and other accumulated evidence , finally substantiated the identification of the Commodore beyond a reasonable doubt .

= = = Greco @-@ Turkish War = = =

Despite contentment in Jacksonville and the need for rest after his ordeal , Crane became restless . He left Jacksonville on January 11 for New York City , where he applied for a passport to Cuba , Mexico and the West Indies . Spending three weeks in New York , he completed " The Open Boat " and periodically visited Port Jervis to see family . By this time , however , blockades had formed along the Florida coast as tensions rose with Spain , and Crane concluded that he would never be able to travel to Cuba . He sold " The Open Boat " to Scribner 's for \$ 300 in early March . Determined to work as a war correspondent , Crane signed on with William Randolph Hearst 's New York Journal to cover the impending Greco @-@ Turkish conflict . He brought along Taylor , who had sold the Hotel de Dream in order to follow him .

On March 20 , they sailed first to England , where Crane was warmly received . They arrived in Athens in early April ; between April 17 (when Turkey declared war on Greece) and April 22 ,

Crane wrote his first published report of the war , " An Impression of the ' Concert ' " . When he left for Epirus in the northwest , Taylor remained in Athens , where she became the Greek war 's first woman war correspondent . She wrote under the pseudonym " Imogene Carter " for the New York Journal , a job that Crane had secured for her . They wrote frequently , traveling throughout the country separately and together . The first large battle that Crane witnessed was the Turks ' assault on General Constantine Smolenski 's Greek forces at Velestino . Crane wrote , " It is a great thing to survey the army of the enemy . Just where and how it takes hold upon the heart is difficult of description . " During this battle , Crane encountered " a fat waddling puppy " that he immediately claimed , dubbing it " Velestino , the Journal dog " . Greece and Turkey signed an armistice on May 20 , ending the 30 @-@ day war ; Crane and Taylor left Greece for England , taking two Greek brothers as servants and Velestino the dog with them .

= = = England and Spanish ? American War = = =

After staying in Limpsfield , Surrey , for a few days , Crane and Taylor settled in Ravensbrook , a plain brick villa in Oxted . Referring to themselves as Mr. and Mrs. Crane , the couple lived openly in England , but Crane concealed the relationship from his friends and family in the United States . Admired in England , Crane thought himself attacked back home : " There seem so many of them in America who want to kill , bury and forget me purely out of unkindness and envy and ? my unworthiness , if you choose " , he wrote . Velestino the dog sickened and died soon after their arrival in England , on August 1 . Crane , who had a great love for dogs , wrote an emotional letter to a friend an hour after the dog 's death , stating that " for eleven days we fought death for him , thinking nothing of anything but his life . " The Limpsfield @-@ Oxted area was home to members of the socialist Fabian Society and a magnet for writers such as Edmund Gosse , Ford Madox Ford and Edward Garnett . Crane also met the Polish @-@ born novelist Joseph Conrad in October 1897 , with whom he would have what Crane called a " warm and endless friendship " .

Although Crane was confident among peers , strong negative reviews of the recently published *The Third Violet* were causing his literary reputation to dwindle . Reviewers were also highly critical of Crane 's war letters , deeming them self @-@ centered . Although *The Red Badge of Courage* had by this time gone through fourteen printings in the United States and six in England , Crane was running out of money . To survive financially , he worked at a feverish pitch , writing prolifically for both the English and the American markets . He wrote in quick succession stories such as *The Monster* , " *The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky* " , " *Death and the Child* " and " *The Blue Hotel* " . Crane began to attach price tags to his new works of fiction , hoping that " *The Bride* " , for example , would fetch \$ 175 .

As 1897 ended , Crane 's money crisis worsened . Amy Leslie , a reporter from Chicago and a former lover , sued him for \$ 550 . The New York Times reported that Leslie gave him \$ 800 in November 1896 but that he 'd repaid only a quarter of the sum . In February he was summoned to answer Leslie 's claim . The claim was apparently settled out of court , because no record of adjudication exists . Meanwhile , Crane felt " heavy with troubles " and " chased to the wall " by expenses . He confided to his agent that he was \$ 2 @,@ 000 in debt but that he would " beat it " with more literary output .

Soon after the USS Maine exploded in Havana Harbor on February 15 , 1898 , under suspicious circumstances , Crane was offered a £ 60 advance by Blackwood 's Magazine for articles " from the seat of war in the event of a war breaking out " between the United States and Spain . His health was failing , and it is believed that signs of his pulmonary tuberculosis , which he may have contracted in childhood , became apparent . With almost no money coming in from his finished stories , Crane accepted the assignment and left Oxted for New York . Taylor and the rest of the household stayed behind to fend off local creditors . Crane applied for a passport and left New York for Key West two days before Congress declared war . While the war idled , he interviewed people and produced occasional copy .

In early June , he observed the establishment of an American base in Cuba when Marines seized Guantánamo Bay . He went ashore with the Marines , planning " to gather impressions and write

them as the spirit moved . " Although he wrote honestly about his fear in battle , others observed his calmness and composure . He would later recall " this prolonged tragedy of the night " in the war tale " Marines Signaling Under Fire at Guantanamo " . After showing a willingness to serve during fighting at Cuzco , Cuba , by carrying messages to company commanders , Crane was officially cited for his " material aid during the action " .

He continued to report upon various battles and the worsening military conditions and praised Theodore Roosevelt 's Rough Riders , despite past tensions with the Commissioner . In early July , Crane was sent to the United States for medical treatment for a high fever . He was diagnosed with yellow fever , then malaria . Upon arrival in Old Point Comfort , Virginia , he spent a few weeks resting in a hotel . Although Crane had filed more than twenty dispatches in the three months he had covered the war , the World 's business manager believed that the paper had not received its money 's worth and fired him . In retaliation , Crane signed with Hearst 's New York Journal with the wish to return to Cuba . He traveled first to Puerto Rico and then to Havana . In September , rumors began to spread that Crane , who was working anonymously , had either been killed or disappeared . He sporadically sent out dispatches and stories ; he wrote about the mood in Havana , the crowded city sidewalks , and other topics , but he was soon desperate for money again . Taylor , left alone in England , was also penniless . She became frantic with worry over her lover 's whereabouts ; they were not in direct communication until the end of the year . Crane left Havana and arrived in England on January 11 , 1899 .

= = = Death = = =

Rent on Ravensbrook had not been paid for a year . Upon returning to England , Crane secured a solicitor to act as guarantor for their debts , after which Crane and Taylor relocated to Brede Place . This manor in Sussex , which dated to the 14th century and had neither electricity nor indoor plumbing , was offered to them by friends at a modest rent . The relocation appeared to give hope to Crane , but his money problems continued . Deciding that he could no longer afford to write for American publications , he concentrated on publishing in English magazines .

Crane pushed himself to write feverishly during the first months at Brede ; he told his publisher that he was " doing more work now than I have at any other period in my life " . His health worsened , and by late 1899 he was asking friends about health resorts . The Monster and Other Stories was in production and War Is Kind , his second collection of poems , was published in the United States in May . None of his books after The Red Badge of Courage had sold well , and he bought a typewriter to spur output . Active Service , a novella based on Crane 's correspondence experience , was published in October . The New York Times reviewer questioned " whether the author of ' Active Service ' himself really sees anything remarkable in his newspaperly hero . "

In December , the couple held an elaborate Christmas party at Brede , attended by Conrad , Henry James , H. G. Wells and other friends ; it lasted several days . On December 29 Crane suffered a severe pulmonary hemorrhage . In January 1900 he 'd recovered sufficiently to work on a new novel , The O 'Ruddy , completing 25 of the 33 chapters . Plans were made for him to travel as a correspondent to Gibraltar to write sketches from Saint Helena , the site of a Boer prison , but at the end of March and in early April he suffered two more hemorrhages . Taylor took over most of Crane 's correspondence while he was ill , writing to friends for monetary aid . The couple planned to travel on the continent , but Conrad , upon visiting Crane for the last time , remarked that his friend 's " wasted face was enough to tell me that it was the most forlorn of all hopes . "

On May 28 , the couple arrived at Badenweiler , Germany , a health spa on the edge of the Black Forest . Despite his weakened condition , Crane continued to dictate fragmentary episodes for the completion of The O 'Ruddy . He died on June 5 , 1900 , at the age of 28 . In his will he left everything to Taylor , who took his body to New Jersey for burial . Crane was interred in Evergreen Cemetery in what is now Hillside , New Jersey .

= = Fiction and poetry = =

== Style and technique ==

Stephen Crane's fiction is typically categorized as representative of Naturalism, American realism, Impressionism or a mixture of the three. Critic Sergio Perosa, for example, wrote in his essay, "Stephen Crane fra naturalismo e impressionismo", that the work presents a "symbiosis" of Naturalistic ideals and Impressionistic methods. When asked whether or not he would write an autobiography in 1896, Crane responded that he "dare not say that I am honest. I merely say that I am as nearly honest as a weak mental machinery will allow." Similarities between the stylistic techniques in Crane's writing and Impressionist painting? including the use of color and chiaroscuro? are often cited to support the theory that Crane was not only an Impressionist but also influenced by the movement. H. G. Wells remarked upon "the great influence of the studio" on Crane's work, quoting a passage from *The Red Badge of Courage* as an example: "At nightfall the column broke into regimental pieces, and the fragments went into the fields to camp. Tents sprang up like strange plants. Camp fires, like red, peculiar blossoms, dotted the night From this little distance the many fires, with the black forms of men passing to and fro before the crimson rays, made weird and satanic effects." Although no direct evidence exists that Crane formulated a precise theory of his craft, he vehemently rejected sentimentality, asserting that "a story should be logical in its action and faithful to character. Truth to life itself was the only test, the greatest artists were the simplest, and simple because they were true."

Poet and biographer John Berryman suggested that there were three basic variations, or "norms", of Crane's narrative style. The first, being "flexible, swift, abrupt and nervous", is best exemplified in *The Red Badge of Courage*, while the second ("supple majesty") is believed to relate to "The Open Boat", and the third ("much more closed, circumstantial and 'normal' in feeling and syntax") to later works such as *The Monster*. Crane's work, however, cannot be determined by style solely on chronology. Not only does his fiction not take place in any particular region with similar characters, but it varies from serious in tone to reportorial writing and light fiction. Crane's writing, both fiction and nonfiction, is consistently driven by immediacy and is at once concentrated, vivid and intense. The novels and short stories contain poetic characteristics such as shorthand prose, suggestibility, shifts in perspective and ellipses between and within sentences. Similarly, omission plays a large part in Crane's work; the names of his protagonists are not commonly used and sometimes they are not named at all.

Crane was often criticized by early reviewers for his frequent incorporation of everyday speech into dialogue, mimicking the regional accents of his characters with colloquial stylization. This is apparent in his first novel, in which Crane ignored the romantic, sentimental approach of slum fiction; he instead concentrated on the cruelty and sordid aspects of poverty, expressed by the brashness of the Bowery's crude dialect and profanity, which he used lavishly. The distinct dialect of his Bowery characters is apparent at the beginning of the text; the title character admonishes her brother saying: "Yeh knows it puts mudder out when yes comes home half dead, an' it's like we'll all get a poundin'."

== Major themes ==

Crane's work is often thematically driven by Naturalistic and Realistic concerns, including ideals versus realities, spiritual crises and fear. These themes are particularly evident in Crane's first three novels, *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*, *The Red Badge of Courage* and *George's Mother*. The three main characters search for a way to make their dreams come true, but ultimately suffer from crises of identity. Crane was fascinated by war and death, as well as fire, disfigurement, fear and courage, all of which inspired him to write many works based on these concepts. In *The Red Badge of Courage*, the main character both longs for the heroics of battle but ultimately fears it, demonstrating the dichotomy of courage and cowardice. He experiences the threat of death, misery and a loss of self.

Extreme isolation from society and community is also apparent in Crane's work. During the most

intense battle scenes in *The Red Badge of Courage*, for example, the story's focus is mainly "on the inner responses of a self unaware of others". In "The Open Boat", "An Experiment in Misery" and other stories, Crane uses light, motion and color to express degrees of epistemological uncertainty. Similar to other Naturalistic writers, Crane scrutinizes the position of man, who has been isolated not only from society, but also from God and nature. "The Open Boat", for example, distances itself from Romantic optimism and affirmation of man's place in the world by concentrating on the characters' isolation.

While he lived, Stephen Crane was denominated by critical readers a realist, a naturalist, an impressionist, symbolist, Symboliste, expressionist and ironist; his posthumous life was enriched by critics who read him as nihilistic, existentialist, a neo @-@ Romantic, a sentimentalist, protomodernist, pointilliste, visionist, imagist and, by his most recent biographer, a ? bleak naturalist. ? At midcentury he was a ? predisciple of the New Criticism ?; by its end he was ? a proto @-@ deconstructionist anti @-@ artist hero ? who had ? leapfrogged modernism, landing on postmodernist ground. ? Or, as Sergio Perosa wrote in 1964, ? The critic wanders in a labyrinth of possibilities, which every new turn taken by Crane ? s fiction seems to explode or deny. ?

One undeniable fact about Crane's work, as Anthony Splendora noted in 2015, is that Death haunts it; like a threatening eclipse it overshadows his best efforts, each of which features the signal demise of a main character. Allegorically, "The Blue Hotel", at the pinnacle of the short story form, may even be an autothanatography, the author's intentional exteriorization or objectification, in this case for the purpose of purgation, of his own impending death. Crane's "Swede" in that story can be taken, following current psychoanalytical theory, as a surrogate, sacrificial victim, ritually to be purged.

Transcending this "dark circumstance of composition", Crane had a particular telos and impetus for his creation: beyond the tautologies that all art is alterity and to some formal extent mimesis, Crane sought and obviously found "a form of catharsis" in writing. This view accounts for his uniqueness, especially as operative through his notorious "disgust" with his family's religion, their "vacuous, futile psalm @-@ singing". His favorite book, for example, was Mark Twain's *Life on the Mississippi*, in which God is mentioned only twice ? once as irony and once as "a swindle". Not only did Crane call out God specifically with the lines "Well then I hate thee / righteous image" in "The Black Riders" (1895), but even his most hopeful tropes, such as the "comradeship" of his "Open Boat" survivors, make no mention of deity, specifying only "indifferent nature". His antitheism is most evident in his characterization of the human race as "lice clinging to a space @-@ lost bulb", "a climax @-@ nearing speech" in "The Blue Hotel", Ch. VI. It is possible that Crane utilized religion's formal psychic space, now suddenly available resulting from the recent "Death of God", "as a milieu for his compensative art".

= = = Novels = = =

Beginning with the publication of *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* in 1893, Crane was recognized by critics mainly as a novelist. *Maggie* was initially rejected by numerous publishers because of its atypical and true @-@ to @-@ life depictions of class warfare, which clashed with the sentimental tales of that time. Rather than focusing on the very rich or middle class, the novel's characters are lower @-@ class denizens of New York's Bowery. The main character, Maggie, descends into prostitution after being led astray by her lover. Although the novel's plot is simple, its dramatic mood, quick pace and portrayal of Bowery life have made it memorable. Maggie is not merely an account of slum life, but also represents eternal symbols. In his first draft, Crane did not give his characters proper names. Instead, they were identified by epithets: Maggie, for example, was the girl who "blossomed in a mud @-@ puddle" and Pete, her seducer, was a "knight". The novel is dominated by bitter irony and anger, as well as destructive morality and treacherous sentiment. Critics would later call the novel "the first dark flower of American Naturalism" for its distinctive elements of naturalistic fiction.

Written thirty years after the end of the Civil War and before Crane had any experience of battle, *The Red Badge of Courage* was innovative stylistically as well as psychologically. Often described

as a war novel , it focuses less on battle and more on the main character 's psyche and his reactions and responses in war . It is believed that Crane based the fictional battle in the novel on that of Chancellorsville ; he may also have interviewed veterans of the 124th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment , commonly known as the Orange Blossoms , in Port Jervis , New York . Told in a third @-@ person limited point of view , it reflects the private experience of Henry Fleming , a young soldier who flees from combat . The Red Badge of Courage is notable in its vivid descriptions and well @-@ cadenced prose , both of which help create suspense within the story . Similarly , by substituting epithets for characters ' names (" the youth " , " the tattered soldier ") , Crane injects an allegorical quality into his work , making his characters point to a specific characteristic of man . Like Crane 's first novel , The Red Badge of Courage has a deeply ironic tone which increases in severity as the novel progresses . The title of the work is ironic ; Henry wishes " that he , too , had a wound , a red badge of courage " , echoing a wish to have been wounded in battle . The wound he does receive (from the rifle butt of a fleeing Union soldier) is not a badge of courage but a badge of shame .

The novel expresses a strong connection between humankind and nature , a frequent and prominent concern in Crane 's fiction and poetry throughout his career . Whereas contemporary writers (Ralph Waldo Emerson , Nathaniel Hawthorne , Henry David Thoreau) focused on a sympathetic bond on the two elements , Crane wrote from the perspective that human consciousness distanced humans from nature . In The Red Badge of Courage , this distance is paired with a great number of references to animals , and men with animalistic characteristics : people " howl " , " squawk " , " growl " , or " snarl " .

Since the resurgence of Crane 's popularity in the 1920s , The Red Badge of Courage has been deemed a major American text . The novel has been anthologized numerous times , including in Ernest Hemingway 's 1942 collection Men at War : The Best War Stories of All Time . In the introduction , Hemingway wrote that the novel " is one of the finest books of our literature , and I include it entire because it is all as much of a piece as a great poem is . "

Crane 's later novels have not received as much critical praise . After the success of The Red Badge of Courage , Crane wrote another tale set in the Bowery . George 's Mother is less allegorical and more personal than his two previous novels , and it focuses on the conflict between a church @-@ going , temperance @-@ adhering woman (thought to be based on Crane 's mother) and her single remaining offspring , who is a naive dreamer . Critical response to the novel was mixed . The Third Violet , a romance that he wrote quickly after publishing The Red Badge of Courage , is typically considered as Crane 's attempt to appeal to popular audiences . Crane considered it a " quiet little story . " Although it contained autobiographical details , the characters have been deemed inauthentic and stereotypical . Crane 's second to last novel , Active Service , revolves around the Greco @-@ Turkish War of 1897 , with which the author was familiar . Although noted for its satirical take on the melodramatic and highly passionate works that were popular of the nineteenth century , the novel was not successful . It is generally accepted by critics that Crane 's work suffered at this point due to the speed which he wrote in order to meet his high expenses . His last novel , a suspenseful and picaresque work entitled The O 'Ruddy , was finished posthumously by Robert Barr and published in 1903 .

= = = Short fiction = = =

Crane wrote many different types of fictional pieces while indiscriminately applying to them terms such as " story " , " tale " and " sketch " . For this reason , critics have found clear @-@ cut classification of Crane 's work problematic . While " The Open Boat " and " The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky " are often considered short stories , others are variously identified .

In an 1896 interview with Herbert P. Williams , a reporter for the Boston Herald , Crane said that he did " not find that short stories are utterly different in character from other fiction . It seems to me that short stories are the easiest things we write . " During his brief literary career , he wrote more than a hundred short stories and fictional sketches . Crane 's early fiction was based in camping expeditions in his teen years ; these stories eventually became known as The Sullivan County Tales

and Sketches . He considered these " sketches " , which are mostly humorous and not of the same caliber of work as his later fiction , to be " articles of many kinds , " in that they are part fiction and part journalism .

The subject matter for his stories varied extensively . His early New York City sketches and Bowery tales accurately described the results of industrialization , immigration and the growth of cities and their slums . His collection of six short stories , *The Little Regiment* , covered familiar ground with the American Civil War , a subject for which he became famous with *The Red Badge of Courage* . Although similar to Crane 's noted novel , *The Little Regiment* was believed to lack vigor and originality . Realizing the limitations of these tales , Crane wrote : " I have invented the sum of my invention with regard to war and this story keeps me in internal despair . "

The Open Boat and Other Tales of Adventure (1898) contains thirteen short stories that deal with three periods in Crane 's life : his Asbury Park boyhood , his trip to the West and Mexico in 1895 , and his Cuban adventure in 1897 . This collection was well received and included several of his most critically successful works . His 1899 collection , *The Monster and Other Stories* , was similarly well received .

Two posthumously published collections were not as successful . In August 1900 *The Whilomville Stories* were published , a collection of thirteen stories that Crane wrote during the last year of his life . The work deals almost exclusively with boyhood , and the stories are drawn from events occurring in Port Jervis , where Crane lived from the age of six to eleven . Focusing on small @-@ town America , the stories tend toward sentimentality , but remain perceptive of the lives of children . *Wounds in the Rain* , published in September 1900 , contains fictional tales based on Crane 's reports for the *World* and the *Journal* during the Spanish ? American War . These stories , which Crane wrote while desperately ill , include " *The Price of the Harness* " and " *The Lone Charge of William B. Perkins* " and are dramatic , ironic and sometimes humorous .

Despite Crane 's prolific output , only four stories-- " *The Open Boat* " , " *The Blue Hotel* " , " *The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky* " , and *The Monster* ? have received extensive attention from scholars . H. G. Wells considered " *The Open Boat* " to be " beyond all question , the crown of all his work " , and it is one of the most frequently discussed of Crane 's works .

= = = Poetry = = =

Crane 's poems , which he preferred to call " lines " , are typically not given as much scholarly attention as his fiction ; no anthology contained Crane 's verse until 1926 . Although it is not certain when Crane began to write poetry seriously , he once said that his overall poetic aim was " to give my ideas of life as a whole , so far as I know it " . The poetic style used in both of his books of poetry , *The Black Riders and Other Lines* and *War is Kind* , was unconventional for the time in that it was written in free verse without rhyme , meter , or even titles for individual works . They are typically short in length ; although several poems , such as " *Do not weep , maiden , for war is kind* " , use stanzas and refrains , most do not . Crane also differed from his peers and poets of later generations in that his work contains allegory , dialectic and narrative situations .

Critic Ruth Miller claimed that Crane wrote " an intellectual poetry rather than a poetry that evokes feeling , a poetry that stimulates the mind rather than arouses the heart " . In the most complexly organized poems , the significance of the states of mind or feelings is ambiguous , but Crane 's poems tend to affirm certain elemental attitudes , beliefs , opinions and stances toward God , man and the universe . *The Black Riders* in particular is essentially a dramatic concept and the poems provide continuity within the dramatic structure . There is also a dramatic interplay in which there is frequently a major voice reporting an incident seen (" *In the desert / I saw a creature , naked , bestial* ") or experienced (" *A learned man came to me once* ") . The second voice or additional voices represent a point of view which is revealed to be inferior ; when these clash , a dominant attitude emerges .

= = Legacy = =

In four years , Crane published five novels , two volumes of poetry , three short story collections , two books of war stories , and numerous works of short fiction and reporting . Today he is mainly remembered for *The Red Badge of Courage* , which is regarded as an American classic . The novel has been adapted several times for the screen , including John Huston 's 1951 version . By the time of his death , Crane had become one of the best known writers of his generation . His eccentric lifestyle , frequent newspaper reporting , association with other famous authors , and expatriate status made him somewhat of an international celebrity . Although most stories about his life tended toward the romantic , rumors about his alleged drug use and alcoholism persisted long after his death .

By the early 1920s , Crane and his work were nearly forgotten . It was not until Thomas Beer published his biography in 1923 , which was followed by editor Wilson Follett 's *The Work of Stephen Crane* (1925 ? 1927) , that Crane 's writing came to the attention of a scholarly audience . Crane 's reputation was then enhanced by faithful support from writer friends such as Joseph Conrad , H. G. Wells and Ford Madox Ford , all of whom either published recollections or commented upon their time with Crane . John Berryman 's 1950 biography of Crane further established him as an important American author . Since 1951 there has been a steady outpouring of articles , monographs and reprints in Crane scholarship .

Today , Crane is considered one of the most innovative writers of the 1890s . His peers , including Conrad and James , as well as later writers such as Robert Frost , Ezra Pound and Willa Cather , hailed Crane as one of the finest creative spirits of his time . His work was described by Wells as " the first expression of the opening mind of a new period , or , at least , the early emphatic phase of a new initiative . " Wells said that " beyond dispute " , Crane was " the best writer of our generation , and his untimely death was an irreparable loss to our literature . " Conrad wrote that Crane was an " artist " and " a seer with a gift for rendering the significant on the surface of things and with an incomparable insight into primitive emotions " . Crane 's work has proved inspirational for future writers ; not only have scholars drawn similarities between Hemingway 's *A Farewell to Arms* and *The Red Badge of Courage* , but Crane 's fiction is thought to have been an important inspiration for Hemingway and his fellow Modernists . In 1936 , Hemingway wrote in *The Green Hills of Africa* that " The good writers are Henry James , Stephen Crane , and Mark Twain . That 's not the order they 're good in . There is no order for good writers . " Crane 's poetry is thought to have been a precursor to the Imagist movement , and his short fiction has also influenced American literature . " *The Open Boat* " , " *The Blue Hotel* " , *The Monster* and " *The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky* " are generally considered by critics to be examples of Crane 's best work .

Several institutions and places have endeavored to keep Crane 's legacy alive . Badenweiler and the house where he died became something of a tourist attraction for its fleeting association with the American author ; Alexander Woolcott attested to the fact that , long after Crane 's death , tourists would be directed to the room where he died . Columbia University Rare Book and Manuscript Library has a collection of Crane and Taylor 's personal correspondence dating from 1895 to 1908 . Near his brother Edmund 's Sullivan County home in New York , where Crane stayed for a short time , a pond is named after him . The Stephen Crane House in Asbury Park , New Jersey , where the author lived with his siblings for nine years , is operated as a museum dedicated to his life and work . Syracuse University has an annual Stephen Crane Lecture Series which is sponsored by the Dikaia Foundation .

Columbia University purchased much of the Stephen Crane materials held by Cora Crane at her death . The Crane Collection is one of the largest in the nation of his materials . Columbia University had an exhibit : ' *The Tall Swift Shadow of a Ship at Night* ' : Stephen and Cora Crane , November 2 , 1995 through February 16 , 1996 , about the lives of the couple , featuring letters and other documents and memorabilia .

= = Selected list of works = =

Maggie : A Girl of the Streets (1893)
The Red Badge of Courage (1895)

The Black Riders and Other Lines (1895)
George 's Mother (1896)
The Open Boat and Other Tales of Adventure (1898)
War is Kind (1899)
Active Service (1899)
The Monster and Other Stories (1899)
Wounds in the Rain (1900)
Great battles of the world (1901)
The O 'Ruddy (1903)