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## CHAPTER 1

# EARLY LIFE

## WHO IS KANE BROWN?

Kane Brown is a social media star and country singer. He was born on October 21, 1993, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. His mother is Tabatha Brown. She raised him on her own. Growing up, Kane didn't know his father. Moving around was normal to Kane as a child. The small family lived in several different towns in Georgia and Tennessee. For a while, they lived on a farm. It belonged to Kane's grandfather.



## WHO IS SAM HUNT?

Sam Hunt was born on December 8, 1984, in Cedartown, Georgia. He is a country music singer and songwriter. His parents, Joan and Allen, raised him. Joan was a third-grade teacher. Allen worked as an insurance agent. Ben and Van are Sam's younger brothers. Sam spent his whole childhood in the same town. This was very different from Kane's experience.



## A DIFFICULT CHILDHOOD

Childhood wasn't easy for Kane. He grew up in poverty. "I had a single mom. She was 18 when she had me. She didn't have a job at all," he told an audience in Texas. The two moved often. This meant Kane had to change schools too. At times, Kane and his mom didn't have anywhere to live. Sometimes they had to sleep in their car. It was hard to find cheap housing.



## LIFE IN THE COUNTRY



Sam's hometown is small. It has around 10,000 people. Most of his relatives lived within 10 minutes of him. "It's the kind of town that everybody knows everybody," he told Vevo Lift. While growing up, Sam hunted in the woods with his family. He also enjoyed fishing. The brothers played sports outside their family home. Baseball, football, and basketball were favorites. "I was always out in the yard playing," Sam said.



## GETTING BULLIED

When Kane was in middle school, kids bullied him. The singer is biracial. His mother is white, and his father is African American and Cherokee. He explained to *People* magazine, “I didn’t know that until I was seven or eight years old.” Classmates started calling him names. He tried to ignore them. “I kept my circle small. I had my friends that I knew wouldn’t do anything to hurt me.”



## COUNTRY KID

Sam grew up in a rural area. He spent a lot of time outside with his brothers and friends. Riding horses was one of his favorite activities. As a kid, he got a horse for Christmas. One of his childhood dreams was to join the rodeo. The brothers used to pretend they were riding bulls. Once, Sam even put his younger brother Van on the family goat.





## **FAMILY HELP**

Sometimes Kane lived with his grandmother in Georgia. Nana helped raise him. She was a good role model. For a while, Nana worked as a detective. While his grandmother worked, Kane got to hang out at the police station.

Another important person was Kane's great-grandfather. Papa owned a store called the Cold Spot in Rossville, Georgia. When Kane was living there, he would visit the shop after school. The store was a stable part of his life.



## STORYTELLING



Sam's family liked to go dove hunting. They would leave in the morning before the sun was up. Sam, his brothers, and their grandfather wanted to be in place early. Everyone would settle into their spots. Then they had to wait. Half an hour before sunrise was when hunting could start. This was the law. To pass the time, their grandfather told them stories. Sam loved listening. Telling stories would become an important part of his own life.

## COUNTRY MUSIC

Country music has gone through many changes over the years. In the early 1900s, country was influenced by folk music coming from rural areas. Many people in cities didn't listen to country music until almost 50 years later. Modern country is influenced by other types of music. Hip-hop, R&B, and pop elements can be included.



Hank Williams