

## CHAPTER 1 – FAMILY

I was born in England in 1632. My father was German and my mother was English. I had two brothers and one sister. We were a good family.

My father was a good businessman. We had a lot of money. I had good education. I had a good life. But I also had a dream. I wanted to travel by sea. I wanted to see the world.

My father was a good man. He wanted the best for me. But my dream wasn't his dream. He wasn't happy. The situation wasn't easy.

I was 18 years old when my father called me to his room. He wanted to speak with me. When I came to his room, my father asked me some questions. My father wanted to know why I wanted to travel by sea. Then my father told me, "Travelling by sea is dangerous. It isn't comfortable. You can die." My father started to cry.

I thought about my father's words. Travelling by sea was dangerous. It wasn't comfortable. I could die. But it was also very exciting. I could see new countries. I could meet new people.

I thought about travelling by sea every day. It was difficult to be at home. I tried to speak with my mother. I told her, "I would like to travel by sea very much. I want to see the world."

I told her, "Please, help me speak with my father. Maybe with your help I could travel by sea."

My mother loved me very much. But she thought the same as my father. She thought that travelling by sea was dangerous. She thought that the best was to stay at home. She thought that life in England was the best for me.

One year later I visited Hull, a town in England. It was the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. It was the year 1651.

I met my friend. His father had a ship. They travelled by sea very often. Their next journey was to London. My friend told me, "Go with us."

I thought about it. I wasn't prepared for this journey. But I could try if travelling by sea was for me. So I went to London.

I was very happy. It was my first journey by sea. It was very exciting. The first hour was great. But then we started to have problems. We saw a storm. It was closer and closer. The wind was stronger and stronger. The waves were bigger and bigger. The ship went up and down. I had fear. I thought about my home. I thought about my comfortable bed.

The storm was finished in the morning. The weather was nice the whole day. And the evening was beautiful. Everything was so quiet.

One man came to me. We talked. He made some jokes. They were funny. He asked me about the weather. I told him about my fear during the storm. "What storm?" he said, "The little wind?" he laughed.

He offered me a drink. I drank a lot. Soon I was drunk. I slept very well at night. The next day, I forgot about my home. I forgot about my comfortable bed. I started to dream more about travelling by sea.

The next three days, the wind wasn't good. We went very slowly. Then the wind was stronger. We went faster.

The next day, another storm came. The storm was bigger. I was really scared. I saw that the other men were scared too.

## CHAPTER 2 – STORM

I was so scared that I could only lie in my bed. When I looked outside the window, I saw the waves. They were very big. They were like mountains. I saw other ships. They were like toys. The waves played with the ships. I wanted to go home again. The storm was really big. Everybody asked God for help.

Then, somebody saw a hole in the ship. A lot of water was inside. It was a terrible situation.

Many men went down. They pumped the water out. I was so scared. I couldn't move. But then one man came to me. He told me, "Go down and help." So I went down. We pumped the water out. Then I heard a gun. It was a signal from our captain. It was a signal that we had a big problem. I thought that we had no chance. Our ship was very broken. I thought that it was our last day.

We worked very hard. We tried to pump out the water. But the hole was very big. More and more water was inside the ship.

The weather was better. But the ship was full of water. We needed help. We saw another ship in front of us. They sent a small boat for us. The men on the boat risked their lives for us. We all went on the boat. It wasn't possible to go back to their ship. It was already very far.

Fifteen minutes later, our big ship went under water. We were safe on the small boat. But I was still very scared. We saw a land. We tried to go to it. We were closer and closer. Soon we saw people on the beach. They were from a near village. They waited for us. They were really nice to us. They helped us.

They gave us some money. We could go to London or Hull. I went to London. I travelled to London by land. When I was in London, I met a captain. He was very kind. He offered me to travel with him. The captain wanted to go to Africa. I thought that I could make some money there. The captain told me about the business in Africa. He told me what to buy in England. He told me what people in Africa needed. I bought things which were popular in Africa. They were cheap in