

# *Dorothea Craemer*

## **Hero of Faith**



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# Table of Contents

## chapter one

**The Journey to a New Home ..... 5**

## chapter two

**New Friendships, New Promises ..... 12**

## chapter three

**Landfall! ..... 19**

## chapter four

**The Journey Continues ..... 21**

## chapter five

**Train Wreck! ..... 24**

## chapter six

**A New Home..... 31**

## chapter seven

**A Christmas to Remember ..... 34**

## chapter eight

**“Mutter” ..... 39**

## epilogue

**..... 42**

## author's note

**..... 46**

## timeline of events

**during Dorothea Craemer's Life ..... 49**

*Dorothea Craemer*

*It was 1845 on the rough  
seas of the Atlantic Ocean.*





## chapter one

# The Journey to a New Home

The boat swayed in the rhythm of the ocean as Dorothea Benthien cradled her sleeping son, Henry, in her lap. Her stomach was churning again with seasickness and worry, but Dorothea swallowed her fears and frustrations. The others needed her.

Henry's fever had flared up again. Smallpox ravaged many on board the *Caroline*. The ship had endured so many challenges during the last forty-five days.

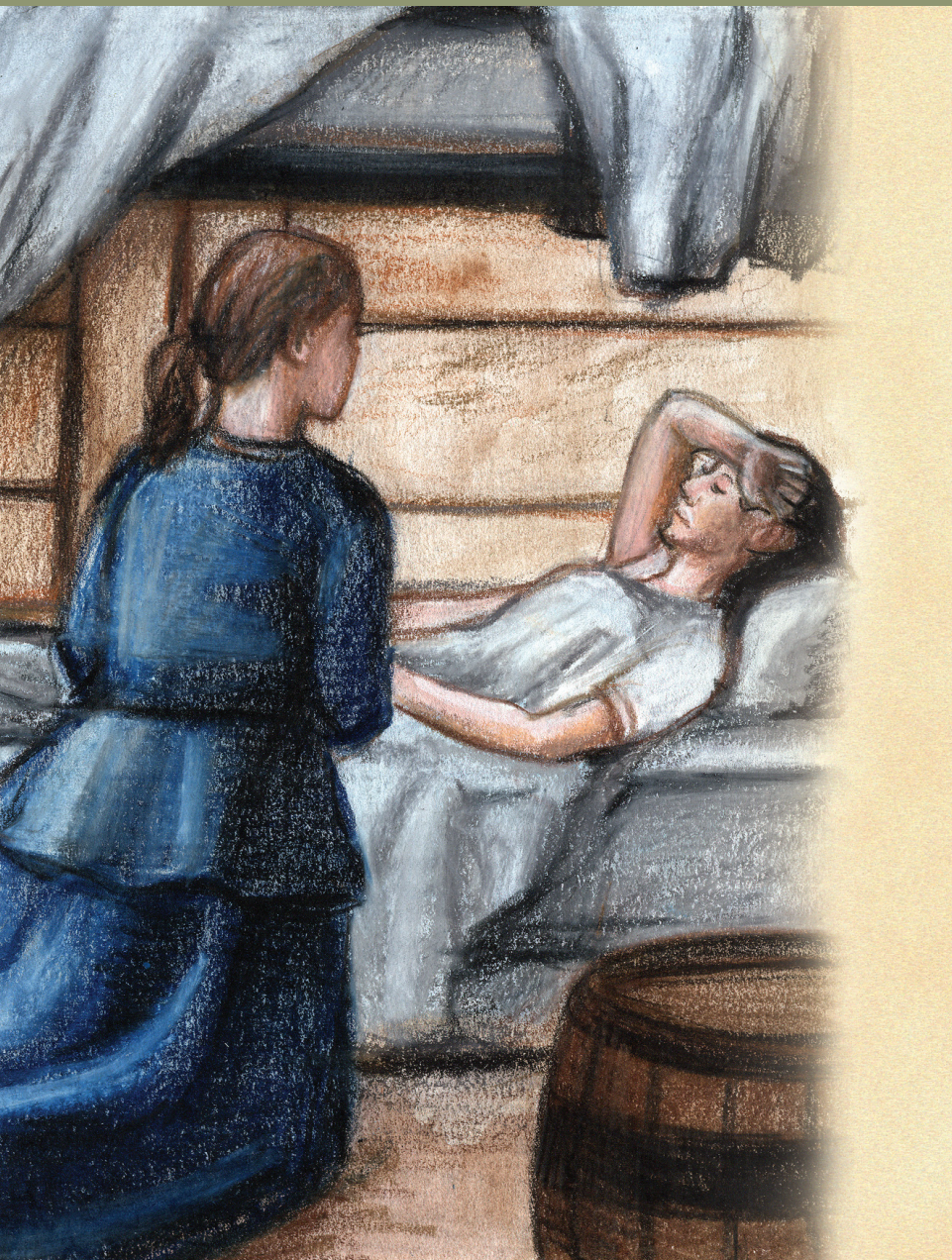
Calendars marked the year 1845 as Dorothea cared for her five-year-old son, her friends, and the other passengers on board the ship traveling the rough Atlantic Ocean from Bremen, Germany to New York City. So many were sick and hurting. Dorothea worked tirelessly to help and comfort them.

Dorothea closed her eyes for a moment. So many days, so many troubles. First, they'd had to steer around Scotland due to high winds. Next, they had dodged icebergs, which were always a danger in the chilly Atlantic seas, especially in April when the spring thaw had barely begun. They'd even crashed into another boat, a trawler. The accident had not been serious enough to cause them to turn around, but each new problem caused more worry among the passengers.

Now, the smallpox sickness spread aboard the ship, disabling almost everyone. The illness caused red spots to appear on the skin along with fever and upset stomach. Just days before, a two-year-old child, Margaretha, had died from smallpox.

Dorothea breathed a prayer for the grieving parents and for all who were ill. Then she moved Henry gently to a blanket and attended to the others. She'd been traveling with a group of Lutherans moving from Germany to Fort Wayne, Indiana. She'd gotten acquainted with other Lutherans heading to America as well.

*Dorothea prayed for  
God's help as she cared  
for those who were ill.*





*Pastor Craemer joined four couples  
in marriage on board the Caroline.*

Among this group were four engaged couples, one married couple, two single men, and their pastor, Reverend Friedrich August Craemer (known as Pastor August Craemer), who was also single.

She'd learned from them, as they had lived together on this ship for nearly two months, that they were leaving their homes in Germany for the forests of Michigan in the United States. In their new home, Pastor Craemer would minister to the Lutherans in the area and reach out with God's love to the American Indians, the Chippewa. Pastor Craemer had explained that many German Lutherans had immigrated to Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and the surrounding states, but had very few pastors to care for them.