

# Puppy Love

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## Coming to America

In 1885 Christian Augenschlager left Germany to make his long immigrant journey to the US. When Christian boarded the steamer in Hamburg he smuggled his dachshund, Blucher onto the ship. Everything went well until Blucher escaped steerage and found his way into the galley where he helped himself to a large piece of meat. When Christian realized Blucher was missing he began to search for him and found him just in time to see the galley cook grab Blucher by the tail and throw him into the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. There was nothing Christian could do, Blucher was gone.

On that same day another ship in the area held a passenger by the name of Ernest Picard. While waiting out hazardous weather conditions the ship came to a standstill allowing sailors aboard the ship to spot a strange looking animal in the water. When they approached the animal it swam straight to them and he was taken on board. Blucher still had the stolen piece of meat in his mouth and it is believed the meat is what enabled him to stay afloat in the ocean for six hours. Picard "adopted" Blucher and four days later they landed in New York.

Once on land Blucher refused to go with Picard. He curled up at the end of the dock and kept watch as if he was waiting for his much loved friend, Christian to arrive. And miraculously, when Christian left the ship he spotted a familiar looking dog on the dock, believing he must be seeing a ghost he fainted. Eventually, all of the facts were discovered and their story became a favorite story of the undying love shared between a dog and his most special best friend.

Full story originally published in New York Journal, February 1885

## *A Faithful Dog*

A faithful dog will play with you  
and laugh with you ~ and even cry.  
He'll gladly starve to stay with you  
nor ever reason why.

And when you're feeling out of sorts  
somehow he'll understand.

Watch you with his shining eyes  
and try to lick your hand.

His blind, implicit faith in you  
is matched by his great love.

The kind that all of us should have  
in the master, up above.

When every thing is said and done  
I guess this isn't odd,  
for when you spell "dog" backwards  
you get the name of God.

Kathryn Brashier



Capitan, a shepherd mix, shared his daily life with his very best friend Miguel. After Miguel's death the dog seemed to disappear. But, much to the surprise of Miguel's family, they discovered Capitan visits Miguel's grave every day. The cemetery director told the family the first day Capitan visited the cemetery he made several laps around the grounds until he found the grave of his friend. From that day forward he comes to the cemetery every day at six pm and lies down on Miguel's grave and remains there throughout the night. Capitan has never missed a day in over six years. Even more surprising, Miguel's family had never taken Capitan to the cemetery.