Captain James Cook R.N.
Crew Database

First Voyage: Endeavour 1768 - 1771

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Peter BRISCOE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Details:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born 1742, his parents were tenants of the Banks’ estate in Revesby, Lincolnshire.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Position On-Board: Servant to Joseph Banks

Biographical Summary:
He became a servant to Joseph Banks, who had trained him in a number of biological disciplines, e.g. how to collect specimens.
He accompanied Banks on his expedition to Newfoundland in 1766.
He then accompanied Banks on his voyage aboard *Endeavour*.
In January 1769, on Tierra Del Fuego, during a snow storm, Briscoe was ‘just about dead from cold, but managed to return to the fire with the rest of the party.’ Banks other two servants, Thomas Richmond and George Dorlton, were not so fortunate, and succumbed to the cold conditions.
On 4th April 1769 at 11am, Banks recorded in his journal that his servant, Peter Briscoe, "saw the Land which we had almost passed by, we stood towards it and found it to be a small Island (Lagoon Island) about 1 or 2 miles in length."

Briscoe had made the first sighting of the island of Vahitahi.

After leaving Banks’ employment, he married and opened a grocery shop.
His name appears on a memorial tablet in St. Botolph’s church, Boston, Lincs.
Briscoe Court in Melbourne, Australia, is named after him.

Sources:
Beaglehole, *The Voyage of the Endeavour 1768-1771*
Captain Cook Society, *Cook’s Log*
Endeavour Journal of Joseph Banks
Discoveries, by Nicholas Thomas

This information sheet was produced by the Captain Cook Society to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook’s first voyage of exploration.
For further information visit: www.captaincook society.com