**Name:** Alexander BUCHAN

**Personal Details:**
- Born in Scotland.
- Died 17th April 1769 of epilepsy at Matavai Bay.
- Buried at sea.

**Position On-Board:** Artist

**Biographical Summary:**
Employed by Joseph Banks as landscape artist.
In his journal, Banks records that Buchan drew coastal views of the Cape Verde Islands, which are now lost. He also reports his having suffered an epileptic fit during an excursion into the foothills inland of the Bay of Success in western Tierra del Fuego on 16 January 1769.
Buchan produced several important drawings of the people of the Bay of Success. After Buchan’s death, his drawings came into Banks's possession. With the exception of several drawings of south Atlantic marine life now preserved with the drawings of Sydney Parkinson in the British Museum (Natural History), all of Buchan’s known drawings are now in the British Library.
Banks wrote, ‘His loss to me is irretrievable, my airy dreams of entertaining my friends with the scenes that I am to see here are vanished.’
Cook’s journal describes him as a gentleman well skilled in his profession and one that will be greatly missed in the course of this voyage.
The journal of Robert Molyneux records that two boats were sent out with proper persons to bury the deceased.

**Sources:**
- Beaglehole, The Voyage of the Endeavour 1768-1771
- Captain Cook Society, Cook’s Log
- South Seas Companion
- “Into the Blue” by Tony Horwitz

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.captaincookssociety.com