Name: Matthew COX

Personal Details:
Born at Gillingham, Dorset in 1744.
No further details are known about him.

Position On-Board: AB seaman

Biographical Summary:
Cox joined the *Endeavour* on 17 June 1768.
On 30 November 1769, he was one of three seamen who had deserted their posts whilst on New Zealand the previous night. They had left their posts to go and dig up some potatoes from a nearby plantation belonging to the Maori. Cook punished them with 12 lashes each for deserting their posts. When Cox argued that their actions had not caused any harm, Cook put him in confinement for a period.

Cox was so upset with the way in which he had been treated, that after *Endeavour* returned to England in July 1771, he served legal papers on Captain Cook for the imprisonment and whipping which he had suffered. Cook forwarded the legal papers to the Admiralty who instructed their solicitor to deal with the matter.

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.captaincookociety.com