**Captain James Cook R.N.**
crew database

**First Voyage: Endeavour 1768 - 1771**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Charles CLERKE</th>
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**Personal Details:**
Born in 1741 at Brooke Farm, Weathersfield, Essex, England.
Died at sea on 22 August 1779.
Buried on 29 August 1779 at Petropavlosk, Kamchatka, Russia.
In 1913, the British Admiralty erected a memorial to him in Petropavlosk.

**Position On-Board:** Master’s Mate to May 1771, then 3rd Lieutenant.

**Biographical Summary:**
Clerke entered the Navy in 1755 as a 12 year old cabin boy. In 1754, Clerke went to Portsmouth to enrol at the Royal Naval Academy, where he studied until 1758. In the following years he rose through the ranks whilst serving on a number of ships, including *Dorsetshire, Bellona* and *Dolphin*. He joined Captain Cook’s *Endeavour* in June 1768.
He subsequently served as lieutenant on *Resolution*, on Captain Cook’s second voyage, and was commander of *Discovery* on Cook’s third voyage.
After the death of Cook at Hawaii in February 1779, Clerke became commander of the expedition and transferred to *Resolution*. He died 6 months later from tuberculosis. He was buried ashore with full military honours at Petropavlosk.

**Publications:**
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A number of articles have also appeared in “Cook’s Log”, the journal of the Captain Cook Society.

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.captaincooksgociety.com