# Captain James Cook R.N.  
## Crew Database

## First Voyage: Endeavour 1768 - 1771

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>William DAWSON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Details:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Born 1749 in Deptford, London.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position on board:</td>
<td>Able Seaman</td>
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</tbody>
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## Biographical Summary:
Dawson joined the *Endeavour* on 27 May 1768. He was a well behaved member of the crew, as his name does not appear amongst the list of men who were flogged for indiscipline. He also sailed on his second voyage of exploration, being Captain Cook’s clerk. He subsequently acted as purser in various ships of the Royal Navy.

Many years later he wrote to Joseph Banks, on 2 July 1788, beseeching his aid in procuring *any small office*, pleading his *real want of a friend and my having had the honour of sailing with you Sir in the Endeavour; after which I went the second Voyage with my late and most worthy friend Captain Cook, who proved so much my friend (after serving him upwards of seven years) as to obtain my being made a Purser*. (Mitchell Library, Banks Papers).

The National Library of Australia holds a facsimile copy (MS 1153) of the journal of *HMS Resolution* on the second voyage, the original of which is in the National Maritime Museum in London. The copy in Australia is written in the hand of Cook’s clerk, William Dawson.

## Sources:
Beaglehole, *The Voyage of the Endeavour 1768-1771*  

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