LIFE OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK: EXPLORER, NAVIGATOR, AND PIONEER

LIFE OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK IS A FASCINATING TALE OF ADVENTURE, DISCOVERY, AND UNPARALLELED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AGE OF EXPLORATION. BORN IN MODEST CIRCUMSTANCES, COOK ROSE TO BECOME ONE OF HISTORY'S MOST RENOWNED BRITISH EXPLORERS, CHARTING UNKNOWN TERRITORIES AND EXPANDING THE WORLD'S UNDERSTANDING OF GEOGRAPHY IN THE 18TH CENTURY. HIS VOYAGES NOT ONLY MAPPED VAST PORTIONS OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN BUT ALSO OPENED NEW PATHWAYS FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDY AND COLONIAL EXPANSION.

James Cook's journey from a small village in England to commanding some of the most important exploratory missions highlights his determination, skill, and vision. Let's dive deeper into the life of captain james cook, exploring his early years, key voyages, and lasting legacy.

EARLY LIFE AND NAVAL BEGINNINGS

JAMES COOK WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 27, 1728, IN THE VILLAGE OF MARTON IN YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND. GROWING UP IN A WORKING-CLASS FAMILY, COOK'S EARLY YEARS WERE MARKED BY HUMBLE BEGINNINGS. HIS FATHER WAS A FARM LABORER, AND YOUNG JAMES SHOWED AN EARLY APTITUDE FOR LEARNING AND A KEEN INTEREST IN THE SEA.

AT THE AGE OF 17, COOK MOVED TO THE COASTAL TOWN OF WHITBY TO APPRENTICE WITH A SHIPPING COMPANY, WHERE HE LEARNED THE SKILLS NECESSARY FOR NAVIGATION AND SEAMANSHIP. THIS APPRENTICESHIP WAS CRUCIAL, AS IT LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR HIS LATER CAREER IN THE ROYAL NAVY.

ENTRY INTO THE ROYAL NAVY

IN 1755, COOK JOINED THE ROYAL NAVY, A MOVE THAT WOULD CHANGE THE COURSE OF HIS LIFE. HIS NAVAL CAREER BEGAN JUST AS BRITAIN WAS PREPARING FOR THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR. COOK QUICKLY DEMONSTRATED HIS TALENT IN NAVIGATION AND CARTOGRAPHY, SKILLS THAT EARNED HIM RAPID PROMOTION.

DURING THE WAR, HE WAS INVOLVED IN MAPPING THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER IN CANADA, AN ASSIGNMENT THAT SHOWCASED HIS METICULOUS ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND ABILITY TO HANDLE DIFFICULT TASKS. HIS WORK IMPRESSED HIS SUPERIORS AND SET HIM APART AS AN EXCEPTIONAL NAVIGATOR.

MAJOR VOYAGES AND DISCOVERIES

THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK IS MOST FAMOUSLY ASSOCIATED WITH HIS THREE MAJOR VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY, EACH OF WHICH EXPANDED THE HORIZONS OF EUROPEAN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE PACIFIC REGION.

FIRST VOYAGE: CHARTING NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

IN 1768, COOK WAS GIVEN COMMAND OF THE HMS ENDEAVOUR FOR A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION ORGANIZED BY THE ROYAL SOCIETY. THE MISSION'S PRIMARY GOAL WAS TO OBSERVE THE TRANSIT OF VENUS FROM TAHITI, BUT COOK WAS ALSO TASKED WITH EXPLORING THE LARGELY UNCHARTED SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

During this voyage, Cook made the first accurate maps of New Zealand, proving that it was composed of two main islands rather than part of the mythical southern continent. He then sailed west to the eastern coast of Australia, becoming the first European to make detailed charts of the area and claiming it for Britain.

SECOND VOYAGE: SEARCHING FOR THE SOUTHERN CONTINENT

Cook's second expedition, beginning in 1772, focused on finding Terra Australis, the supposed great southern continent. Commanding the HMS Resolution, he ventured farther south than any explorer before him, crossing the Antarctic Circle.

Though he never found the mythical continent, Cook's voyages disproved its existence in the temperate zones and opened new understanding of the southern oceans. His precise charts and observations were invaluable for future explorers.

THIRD VOYAGE: EXPLORING THE NORTH PACIFIC AND HAWAII

COOK'S THIRD AND FINAL VOYAGE (1776-1779) WAS AIMED AT DISCOVERING THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE, A SEA ROUTE CONNECTING THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS THROUGH THE ARCTIC.

DURING THIS EXPEDITION, COOK EXTENSIVELY EXPLORED THE COASTS OF ALASKA AND THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. HE ALSO BECAME THE FIRST EUROPEAN TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, WHICH HE NAMED THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

TRAGICALLY, THIS VOYAGE ENDED WITH COOK'S DEATH IN HAWAII IN 1779 DURING A CONFLICT WITH THE NATIVE INHABITANTS. DESPITE THIS, HIS VOYAGES HAD LASTING IMPACTS ON NAVIGATION, ETHNOGRAPHY, AND NATURAL SCIENCE.

CONTRIBUTIONS BEYOND EXPLORATION

James Cook's legacy extends far beyond his adventurous voyages. His work significantly advanced several fields, including cartography, science, and cross-cultural contact.

INNOVATION IN NAVIGATION AND CARTOGRAPHY

COOK WAS A PIONEER IN APPLYING NEW NAVIGATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, SUCH AS THE LUNAR DISTANCE METHOD FOR DETERMINING LONGITUDE, WHICH IMPROVED THE ACCURACY OF SEA TRAVEL. HIS DETAILED MAPS AND CHARTS OF THE PACIFIC ARE STILL RESPECTED FOR THEIR PRECISION.

SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO EXPLORATION

COOK'S VOYAGES WERE NOTABLE FOR THEIR SCIENTIFIC RIGOR. HE COLLABORATED WITH ASTRONOMERS, BOTANISTS, AND ARTISTS TO DOCUMENT NEW SPECIES, CELESTIAL EVENTS, AND INDIGENOUS CULTURES. THIS APPROACH SET A NEW STANDARD FOR EXPLORATION AS A MEANS OF EXPANDING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE RATHER THAN MERE CONQUEST.

INTERACTIONS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Though Cook's encounters with native populations were complex and sometimes fraught, his journals provide valuable ethnographic records. He showed a degree of respect and curiosity toward the cultures he encountered, which was progressive for his time.

THE ENDURING LEGACY OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK CONTINUES TO INSPIRE EXPLORERS, HISTORIANS, AND ENTHUSIASTS WORLDWIDE. HIS NAME IS COMMEMORATED IN NUMEROUS GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS, FROM THE COOK ISLANDS IN THE PACIFIC TO CAPE COOK IN ANTARCTICA.

COOK'S VOYAGES PAVED THE WAY FOR FUTURE EXPLORATION AND COLONIZATION, SHAPING THE MODERN MAP AND INFLUENCING THE COURSE OF HISTORY. HIS DEDICATION TO SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY AND NAVIGATION HELPED USHER IN A NEW ERA OF GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING.

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN MARITIME HISTORY OR THE AGE OF DISCOVERY, STUDYING COOK'S LIFE OFFERS VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THE SPIRIT OF EXPLORATION AND THE CHALLENGES FACED BY EARLY NAVIGATORS VENTURING INTO THE UNKNOWN. HIS METICULOUS METHODS AND ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT REMAIN A BENCHMARK FOR EXPLORERS TODAY.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO WAS CAPTAIN JAMES COOK?

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK WAS A BRITISH EXPLORER, NAVIGATOR, AND CARTOGRAPHER KNOWN FOR HIS VOYAGES TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN, WHERE HE MADE DETAILED MAPS AND HELPED EXPAND EUROPEAN KNOWLEDGE OF THE REGION IN THE 18TH CENTURY.

WHEN AND WHERE WAS CAPTAIN JAMES COOK BORN?

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 27, 1728, IN MARTON, YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND.

WHAT WERE THE MAJOR VOYAGES UNDERTAKEN BY CAPTAIN JAMES COOK?

Captain James Cook undertook three major voyages: the first (1768-1771) to observe the transit of Venus and explore the Pacific; the second (1772-1775) to search for the hypothetical Terra Australis; and the third (1776-1779) to find the Northwest Passage and explore the west coast of North America.

WHAT WERE CAPTAIN COOK'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO NAVIGATION AND CARTOGRAPHY?

CAPTAIN COOK MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS BY CREATING HIGHLY ACCURATE MAPS OF THE PACIFIC, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE EAST COAST OF AUSTRALIA, IMPROVING NAVIGATION TECHNIQUES, AND USING THE CHRONOMETER TO DETERMINE LONGITUDE PRECISELY.

HOW DID CAPTAIN JAMES COOK IMPACT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DURING HIS EXPLORATIONS?

CAPTAIN COOK'S ENCOUNTERS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WERE COMPLEX; WHILE HE ESTABLISHED CONTACT AND EXCHANGED KNOWLEDGE, SOME INTERACTIONS LED TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS, CONFLICTS, AND THE SPREAD OF DISEASES THAT HAD LASTING IMPACTS ON NATIVE POPULATIONS.

HOW DID CAPTAIN JAMES COOK DIE?

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK WAS KILLED ON FEBRUARY 14, 1779, DURING A CONFLICT WITH INDIGENOUS HAWAIIANS AT KEALAKEKUA BAY IN HAWAII DURING HIS THIRD PACIFIC VOYAGE.

WHY IS CAPTAIN JAMES COOK CONSIDERED AN IMPORTANT HISTORICAL FIGURE?

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK IS CONSIDERED IMPORTANT FOR HIS PIONEERING EXPLORATION OF THE PACIFIC, DETAILED MAPPING OF

PREVIOUSLY UNCHARTED AREAS, ADVANCEMENTS IN NAVIGATION, AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE DURING THE AGE OF DISCOVERY.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LIFE OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK: AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION OF THE LEGENDARY EXPLORER'S JOURNEY

LIFE OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST COMPELLING NARRATIVES IN THE ANNALS OF MARITIME EXPLORATION AND SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY. AS AN 18TH-CENTURY BRITISH NAVAL OFFICER, NAVIGATOR, AND CARTOGRAPHER, COOK'S VOYAGES NOT ONLY EXPANDED THE GEOGRAPHICAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD BUT ALSO BRIDGED CULTURAL GAPS BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS. HIS LASTING LEGACY IS EVIDENT IN THE MAPS HE CREATED, THE SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATIONS HE MADE, AND THE PROFOUND IMPACT HIS JOURNEYS HAD ON THE COURSE OF HISTORY.

EARLY YEARS AND NAVAL BEGINNINGS

BORN IN 1728 IN THE VILLAGE OF MARTON, YORKSHIRE, JAMES COOK'S EARLY LIFE WAS MARKED BY MODEST CIRCUMSTANCES. THE SON OF A SCOTTISH FARMWORKER, HE DEMONSTRATED EARLY APTITUDE AND AMBITION THAT WOULD PROPEL HIM INTO THE ROYAL NAVY. AT THE AGE OF 18, COOK BEGAN HIS MARITIME CAREER AS AN APPRENTICE ON COAL SHIPS NAVIGATING THE RIVER TEES AND THE NORTH SEA. HIS PROFICIENCY IN MATHEMATICS AND CARTOGRAPHY EARNED HIM A POSITION AS A MASTER'S MATE ABOARD THE HMS EAGLE DURING THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR.

TRANSITION TO EXPLORATION

Cook's transition from Naval warfare to exploration was catalyzed by his expertise in Navigation and Surveying. Recognized for his meticulous charting of the St. Lawrence River during the Siege of Quebec in 1759, he caught the attention of the Admiralty. This reputation paved the way for his appointment as the commander of the HMS Endeavour in 1768, tasked with a mission of both astronomical observation and geographic discovery.

SIGNIFICANT VOYAGES AND DISCOVERIES

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK'S VOYAGES ARE EMBLEMATIC OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT'S THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPANSION. HIS THREE MAJOR EXPEDITIONS ACROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN REVEALED VAST TRACTS OF PREVIOUSLY UNCHARTED TERRITORIES.

THE FIRST VOYAGE (1768-1771)

THE FIRST VOYAGE, CENTERED AROUND OBSERVING THE TRANSIT OF VENUS FROM TAHITI, QUICKLY TRANSFORMED INTO A MISSION OF EXPLORATION. COOK CHARTED NEW ZEALAND'S COASTLINE WITH UNPRECEDENTED ACCURACY, DISPROVING EARLIER EUROPEAN MAPS THAT SUGGESTED IT WAS PART OF A LARGER SOUTHERN CONTINENT. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO MAP THE EASTERN COAST OF AUSTRALIA, CLAIMING IT FOR GREAT BRITAIN UNDER THE NAME NEW SOUTH WALES.

- SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS: COOK'S CREW INCLUDED BOTANISTS JOSEPH BANKS AND DANIEL SOLANDER, WHOSE COLLECTION OF FLORA AND FAUNA SIGNIFICANTLY ADVANCED EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING.
- NAVIGATION TECHNIQUES: UTILIZATION OF THE NEWLY DEVELOPED MARINE CHRONOMETER IMPROVED LONGITUDE CALCULATIONS, ENHANCING THE PRECISION OF HIS MAPS.

THE SECOND VOYAGE (1772-1775)

COOK'S SECOND EXPEDITION ABOARD THE HMS RESOLUTION HAD A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE: TO SEARCH FOR THE MYTHICAL TERRA AUSTRALIS. ALTHOUGH HE NEVER FOUND THE SUPPOSED MASSIVE SOUTHERN CONTINENT, HIS JOURNEY DISPROVED ITS EXISTENCE IN THE FORM PREVIOUSLY IMAGINED. THIS VOYAGE ALSO MARKED THE FIRST RECORDED CROSSING OF THE ANTARCTIC CIRCLE, PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF KNOWN SOUTHERN LATITUDES.

THE THIRD VOYAGE (1776-1779)

On his final voyage, Cook aimed to discover the Northwest Passage connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. While this elusive route remained undiscovered, Cook's expedition provided detailed maps of the North Pacific Coastline, including Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands. Tragically, this voyage ended with Cook's death in Hawaii in 1779 during a confrontation with native Hawaiians.

LEGACY AND IMPACT ON CARTOGRAPHY AND NAVIGATION

THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK IS INSEPARABLE FROM THE EVOLUTION OF CARTOGRAPHY AND MARITIME NAVIGATION IN THE 18th CENTURY. HIS INSISTENCE ON ACCURACY AND SCIENTIFIC RIGOR ELEVATED THE STANDARDS FOR FUTURE EXPLORATION.

ADVANCEMENTS IN MAPMAKING

Cook's Charts were revolutionary for their time, combining careful observation with methodical recording.

Many of his maps remained in use for decades, influencing naval and commercial navigation worldwide. The

PRECISION WITH WHICH HE DOCUMENTED COASTLINES FACILITATED SAFER VOYAGES FOR SUBSEQUENT EXPLORERS AND TRADERS.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARITIME HEALTH

COOK WAS ALSO AHEAD OF HIS TIME IN ADDRESSING THE HEALTH OF HIS CREW. HIS IMPLEMENTATION OF DIETARY MEASURES TO PREVENT SCURVY—SUCH AS REGULAR CONSUMPTION OF SAUERKRAUT, CITRUS FRUITS, AND FRESH FOOD—SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED ILLNESS ON LONG VOYAGES. THIS FOCUS ON CREW WELFARE DEMONSTRATED A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO EXPEDITION SUCCESS BEYOND NAVIGATION AND DISCOVERY.

COMPLEX INTERACTIONS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

While Cook's voyages are often celebrated for their exploratory achievements, his encounters with indigenous populations present a more nuanced picture. These interactions ranged from initial curiosity and exchange to conflict and misunderstanding.

CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND CONSEQUENCES

COOK'S RESPECTFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH MANY PACIFIC ISLANDERS OPENED AVENUES FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGE, SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, AND DIPLOMACY. HOWEVER, THE INTRODUCTION OF EUROPEAN DISEASES, ALONG WITH SUBSEQUENT COLONIZATION EFFORTS, HAD DEVASTATING EFFECTS ON NATIVE POPULATIONS. THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK THUS INTERSECTS WITH THE BROADER NARRATIVE OF EUROPEAN IMPERIALISM AND ITS MULTIFACETED REPERCUSSIONS.

CONTROVERSIES AND HISTORICAL REASSESSMENT

MODERN HISTORIANS AND INDIGENOUS VOICES HAVE CRITICALLY REASSESSED COOK'S LEGACY, HIGHLIGHTING THE COMPLEXITIES OF HIS ROLE AS BOTH AN EXPLORER AND AN AGENT OF EMPIRE. DEBATES CONTINUE OVER HIS PORTRAYAL AS A HEROIC FIGURE VERSUS A SYMBOL OF COLONIAL INTRUSION.

CONCLUSION: ENDURING INFLUENCE OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

The life of Captain James Cook encapsulates the spirit of exploration and scientific inquiry that defined the 18th century. His voyages dramatically expanded the Western world's geographical horizons and laid foundational work in navigation, cartography, and natural science. Despite the controversies surrounding his encounters with indigenous peoples, Cook's meticulous approach to exploration and commitment to empirical observation remain influential. His story is not merely one of adventure but a profound chapter in the ongoing dialogue between discovery and its consequences.

Life Of Captain James Cook

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life of captain james cook: The Life of Captain James Cook Andrew Kippis, 2012-02-02 Published in 1788 by Andrew Kippis (1725-95), this was the first biography of Captain James Cook (1728-79), although several of Cook's colleagues had written memoirs of their service with him. Kippis draws on the official accounts of Cook's voyages and focuses on Cook's professional life and achievements.

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P. Wogan, T. Stewart, J. Moore, and B. Dornin, 1788. xvi,527, [1]p.; 8°

life of captain james cook: The Life of Captain James Cook Andrew Kippis, 1788 life of captain james cook: The Life of Captain James Cook Arthur Kitson, 2004-06 On 9th August, Cape Prince of Wales, 65 degrees 46 minutes North, 191 degrees 45 minutes East, was sighted, and they believed it to be the most westerly point of North America. They landed on what, from Heydinger's Chart, was the eastern end of the island of Alaska, but it afterwards was found to be the eastern extremity of Asia. This chart, says Burney, was found not only to be incorrect but almost unintelligible. The country was very desolate, neither tree nor shrub to be seen, and the inhabitants seemed afraid of their visitors, though not absolutely unfriendly. They were taller and stouter than those on the American side, and their clothing very superior.

life of captain james cook: The Life of Captain James Cook, the Circumnavigator Arthur Kitson, 2019-11-26 In The Life of Captain James Cook, the Circumnavigator, Arthur Kitson meticulously chronicles the life and voyages of one of history's greatest explorers. This engaging narrative combines a rich historical context with a literary style that is both accessible and evocative, capturing the adventurous spirit of the 18th century. Kitson delves into Cook's groundbreaking voyages, detailing the navigation techniques, encounters with indigenous peoples, and the profound impacts of European exploration on global interactions. The book serves not only as a biography but as a cultural critique of colonialism, illuminating the nuanced implications of Cook's expeditions. Arthur Kitson, a historian with a passion for maritime exploration, brings deep insights into the legacy of Captain James Cook through extensive research and a nuanced understanding of the period. His background in maritime history and his keen interest in the socio-political ramifications of exploration have equipped him to present a compelling narrative that both honors Cook's accomplishments and critically examines their consequences. This book is highly recommended for readers interested in maritime history, colonial studies, or biography. Kitson's comprehensive approach and engaging storytelling make it a significant addition to any library, inviting readers to reflect on the complexities of exploration and the indelible mark it has left on world history.

life of captain james cook: The Life of Captain James Cook. A New Edition. [An Abridgment of the Biography by Andrew Kippis. With Plates.] James Cook, 1835

life of captain james cook: Life of Captain James Cook, 1789

life of captain james cook: The Life of Captain James Cook the Circumnavigator Arthur Kitson, 2023-11 The Life of Captain James Cook, the Circumnavigator, authored by Arthur Kitson, presents a comprehensive and engaging exploration of the remarkable achievements and adventures of the legendary British explorer, Captain James Cook. This book has been deemed a classic and has been a great collection of ideas that are comprehended into a single draft to read by readers of several age groups. Some stories are gruesome and bizarre, while others softly creep up on you and pull you in. Arthur Kitson's work delves into the life, exploits, and legacy of Cook, who is renowned for his pioneering voyages of exploration during the 18th century. The narrative delves into Cook's early years, his naval career, and his transformative journeys that charted uncharted waters, mapped new territories, and significantly expanded European knowledge of the world. Kitson sheds light on Cook's meticulous approach to navigation, his interactions with diverse cultures, and his contributions to geography, anthropology, and natural history. Through Kitson's vivid descriptions, readers are transported to the various landscapes and cultures that Cook encountered, from the Pacific islands to the coastlines of continents.

life of captain james cook: The Life of Captain James Cook. [Adapted and Abridged from the Biography of Andrew Kippis.] James Cook, 1820

life of captain james cook: *The Life of Captain James Cook* J. C. Beaglehole, 1992-04-01 The culmination of the life work of the most distinguished historian of Pacific exploration, this lavishly illustrated biography places Cook in the context of his times and affirms his eminence in the history of maritime discovery.

life of captain james cook: The Life of Captain James Cook Arthur Kitson, 2015-12-28

James Cook, the Circumnavigator, was a native of the district of Cleveland, Yorkshire, but of his ancestry there is now very little satisfactory information to be obtained. Nichols, in his Topographer and Genealogist, suggests that James Cooke, the celebrated mariner, was probably of common origin with the Stockton Cookes. His reason for the suggestion being that a branch of the family possessed a crayon portrait of some relation, which was supposed to resemble the great discoverer. He makes no explanation of the difference in spelling of the two names, and admits that the sailor's family was said to come from Scotland. Dr. George Young, certainly the most reliable authority on Cook's early years, who published a Life in 1836, went to Whitby as Vicar about 1805, and claims to have obtained much information about his subject through intercourse with his relatives, friends, and acquaintances, including one or two surviving school companions, and appears to be satisfied that Cook was of Scotch extraction. Dr. George Johnston, a very careful writer, states in his Natural History of the Eastern Borders, that in 1692 the father of James Thomson, the author of The Seasons, was minister of Ednam, Roxburghshire, and a man named John Cook was one of the Elders of the Kirk. This John Cook married, on the 19th January 1693, a woman named Jean Duncan, by whom he had a son, James, baptised 4th March 1694, and this child, Johnston positively asserts, was afterwards the father of the future Captain Cook. The dates of the marriage and baptism have been verified by the Reverend John Burleigh, minister of Ednam, and they agree with the probable date of the birth of Cook's father, for he died in 1778 at the age of eighty-five. Owing to the loss of the church records for some years after 1698, Mr. Burleigh is unable to trace when this James Cook left Ednam to better himself, but he would take with him a testificate of church membership which might possibly, but not probably, still exist. Attracted, perhaps, by the number of Scotch people who flocked into the north of Yorkshire to follow the alum trade, then at its height, James Cook settled down and married; and the first positive information to be obtained is that he and his wife Grace (her maiden name has so far escaped identification, though she is known to have been a native of Cleveland) resided for some time at Morton, in the parish of Ormsby, and here their eldest child, John, was born in January 1727. Dr. Young says that James Cook had a superstition that his mother's farewell was prophetic of his marriage, for her words were God send you Grace.

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life of captain james cook: The Life of Captain James Cook \dots , 1788

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