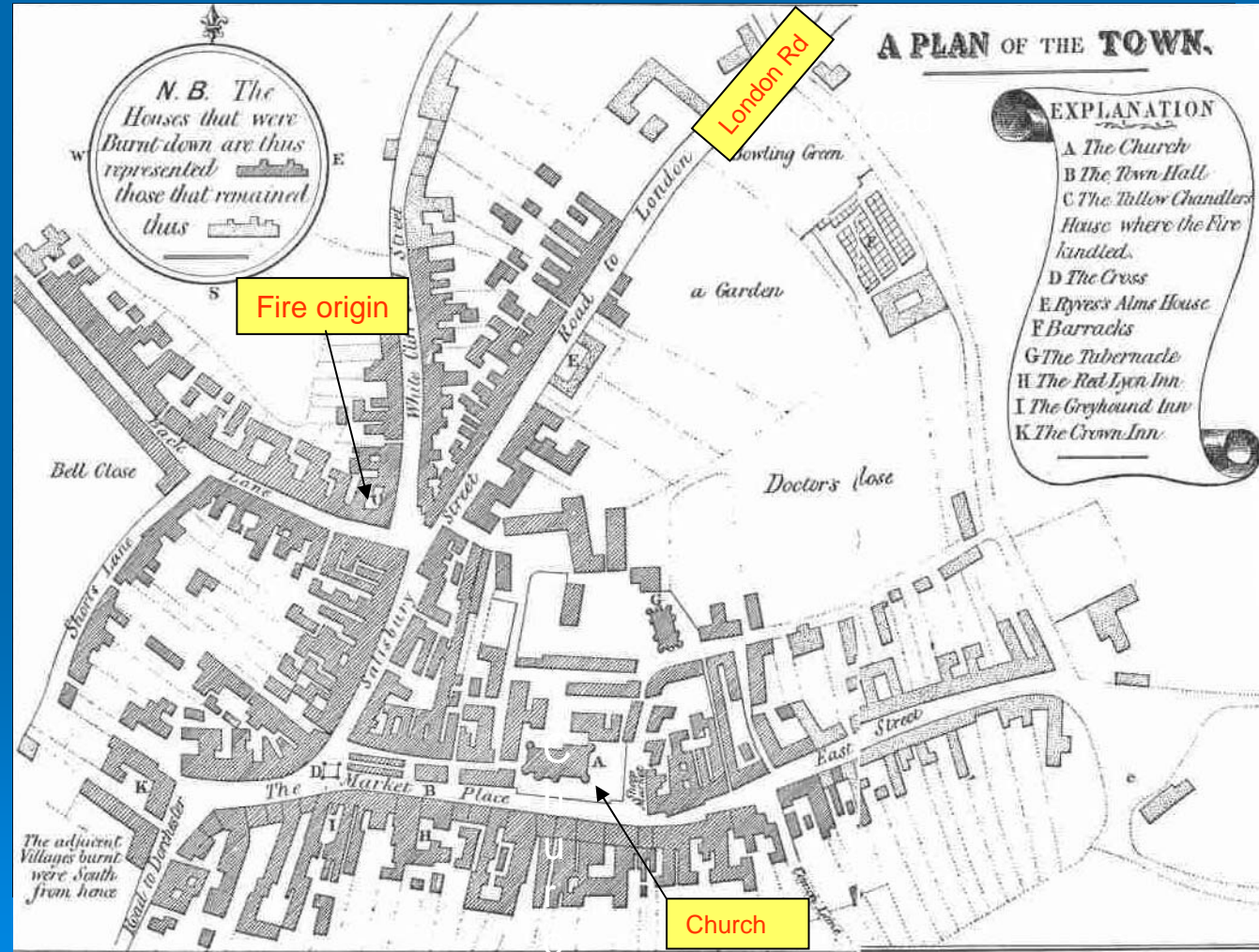


Blandford, Dorset, June 1731

- 13 people died, 3000 made homeless



Blandford, 1731



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Blandford

- The fire occurred on Friday 14 June 1731 by sparks falling on the thatched roof of a soap-boiler's house in the middle of the town.
- There was a strong wind blowing and the fire spread rapidly
- There were only 3 hand-pumped fire engines (see later picture) which were ineffective and were burnt out after half an hour.
- By Saturday morning 15th June the fire was over, and the church, Guildhall and nearly 300 houses and shops were gone.
- 13 elderly people died and some 3000 people escaped and lay in fields all night, some with small pox. Most of the town burnt out due to the timber construction and the thatch used for roofing.





- 17th C engraving of fire fighting in Tiverton, Devon.
- Fire fighting using ladder and buckets of water
- Hooks used to pull down burning timber and thatch.
- Lowering of person by rope.
- Minister saying prayers.
- People carrying away their belongings





- This type of hand-pumped fire engine was not available at the time of the Great fire of London. Engine had to be placed close to building and caught fire in the Blandford conflagration .Only squirts were then available which proved useless.

