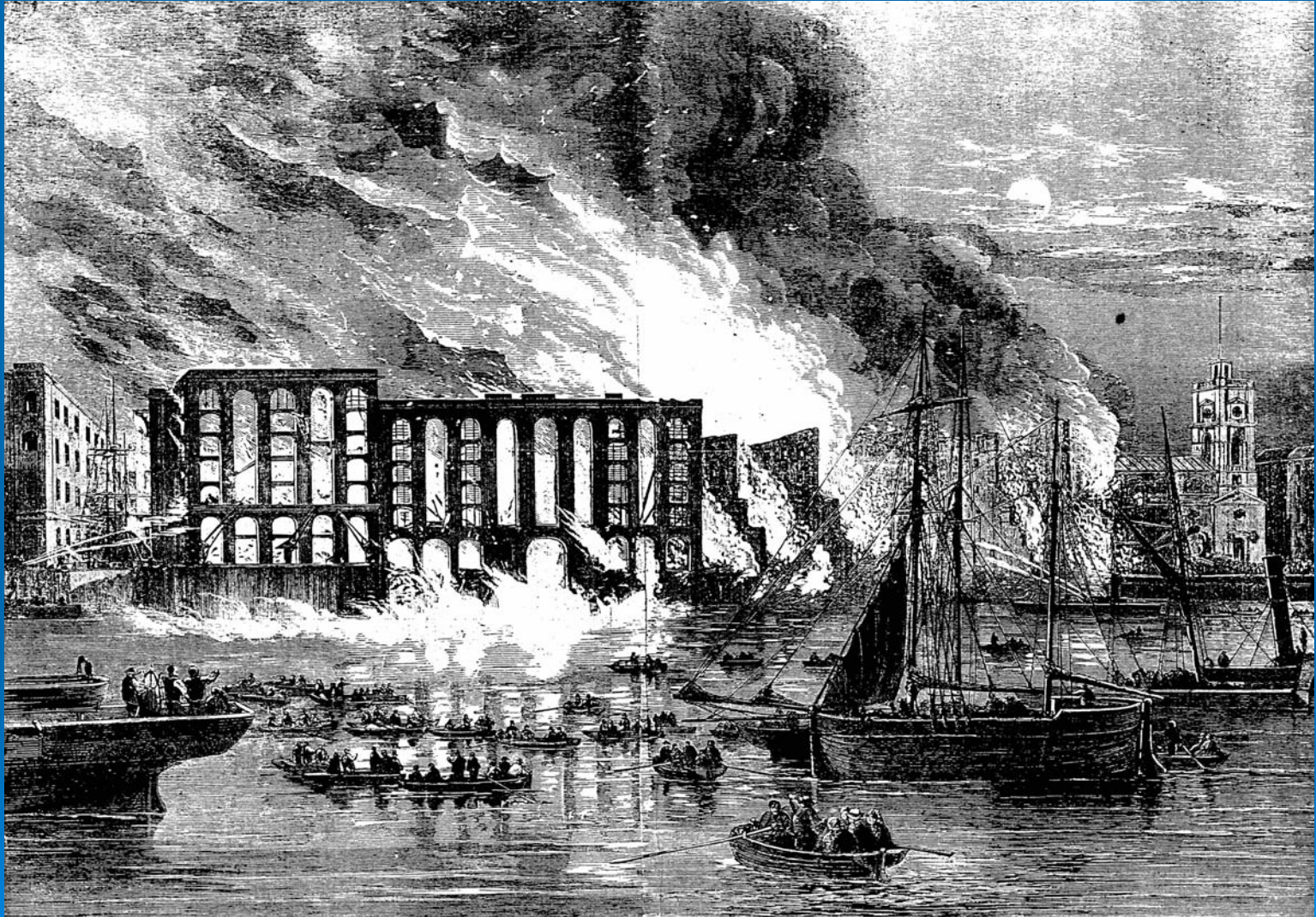
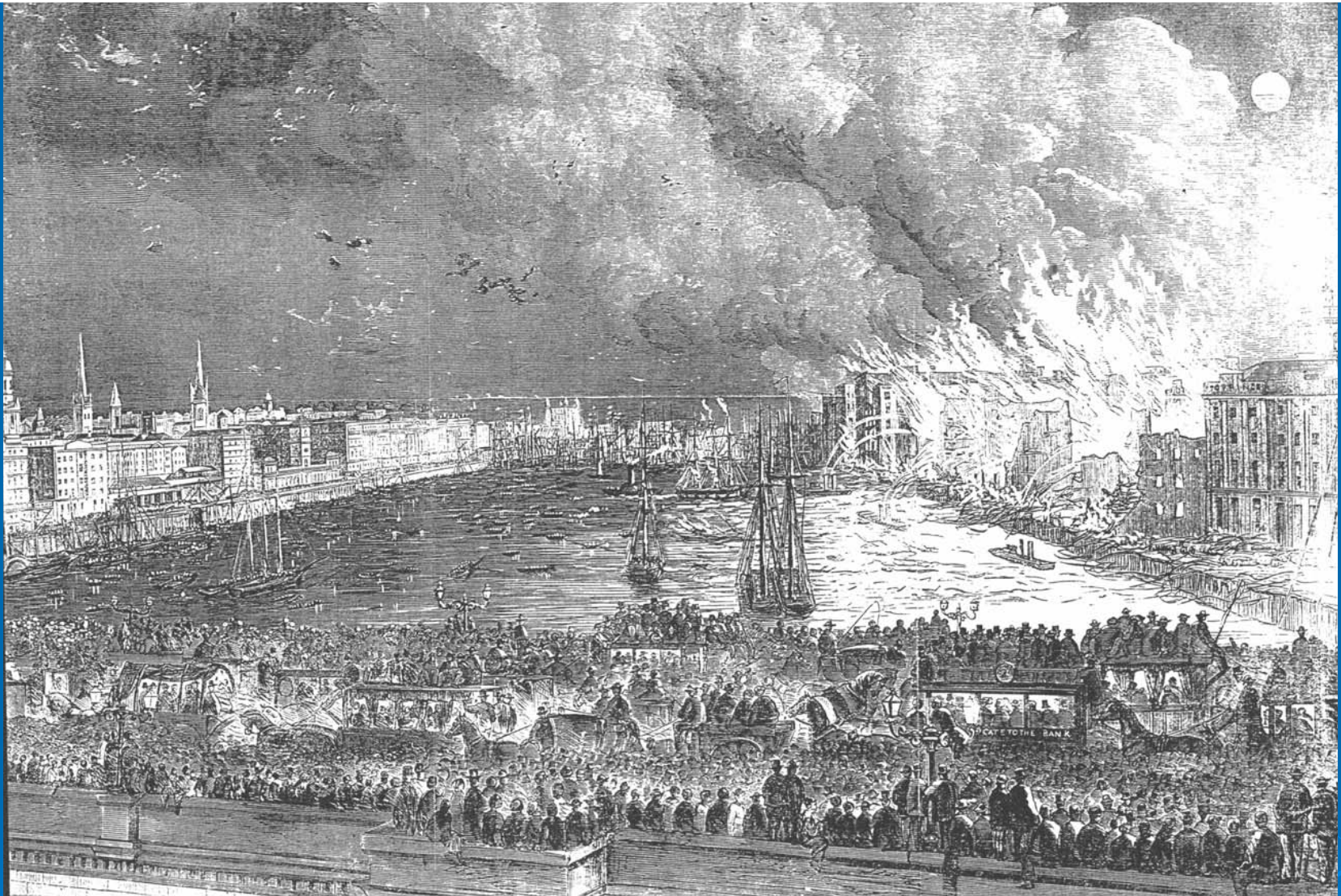


Tooley Street fire – timeline for first day

- 16.30 The fire was first noticed by a workman
- 16.50 Fire first reported to the fire brigade. Attempts to extinguish it with buckets of water had been unsuccessful. At this time the tide was running out rapidly, it being a spring tide.
- 16.45 arrival of the first fire engine
- 16.50 James Braidwood, Head of the London Fire Engine Establishment, heard about the fire and galloped to the scene with his own horse-drawn manual fire engine followed by several other engines.
- 18.00. There are now 14 fire engines (land and floating) at the fire scene. The floating engines had to contend with a receding tide. Fire had spread up the building and begun to spread between buildings because iron doors communicating between buildings were open during the day while workers were in the building: these doors were only closed at night when workers left the building.
- 18.00 The warehouse (in which the fire originated) collapsed onto nearby buildings containing tallow, tar and resin.
- 20.00 The entire range of warehouses over the wharf facing the Thames and the inland buildings were involved in fire.
- 22.00 Fire reached its peak severity

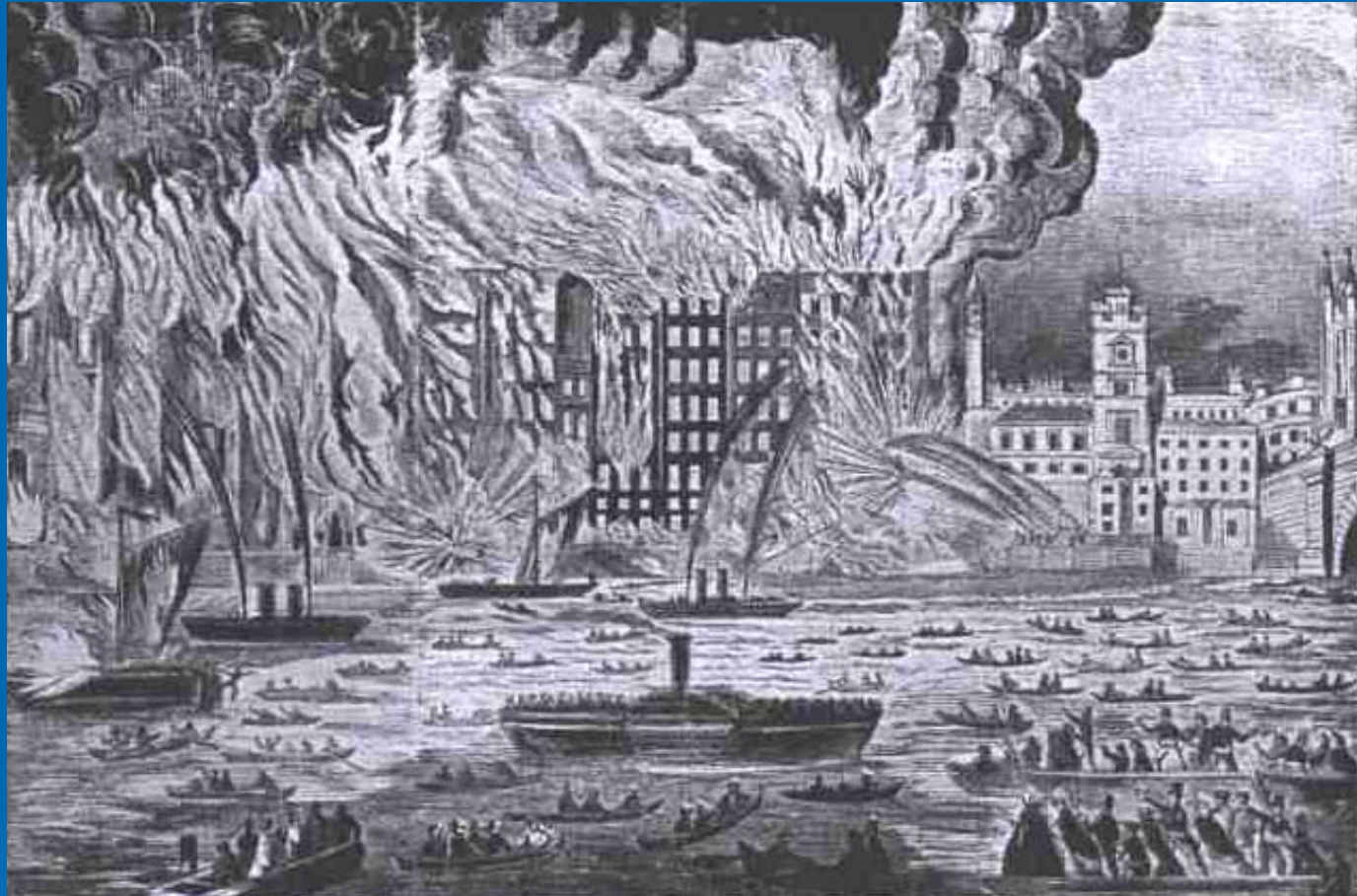






cookeonfire.com

- Tooley street fire with packed London bridge in foreground (people and horses and carts)
- The fire was a spectacle, so much so that several people fell into the river from the crowded bridges and were drowned.
- Fire was spread by explosions showering nearby buildings with burning tallow and also by burning oil and tallow which floated down the river and along Tooley street



- Tooley street fire reproduced from an original in the Guildhall Library.
- Note fire fighting boats, indication of explosions, and many onlookers
- The fire, which caused a loss of £2m (a considerable sum in those days), led to the formation of the London Salvage Corps, the passing of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Act of 1865, and, through the London Building Act 1897, the adoption of the 60ft cube (7000m³) as the maximum fire compartment size in buildings.

