

The Diary of Samuel Pepys

Sunday 2nd September

Dear Diary,

My maid, Jane, called up to me at 3 o'clock in the morning to tell me there was a great fire burning in the City of London. It was far away so I went back to sleep thinking nothing of it. When I got up this morning, I saw the fire out of my window in the distance. Jane came to tell me the fire began in a bakery on Pudding Lane and 300 houses had been burned down. I went to see the Lord Mayor to see what was being done about the fire. He was very worried and then I began to panic. The fire is spreading and I am afraid my property will be burned to the ground!

Monday 3rd September

Dear Diary,

The fire is still spreading and the flames are rising! I am terrified because it is getting closer to my house! Today, I hid all my money in the cellar. I hope it is hidden deep enough so that it will be safe from the fire or from anyone who tries to steal it.

Tuesday 4th September

Dear Diary,

The terrible fire continues! At 4 o'clock this morning, I loaded up a cart with all my valuables and took them to the house of my friend, Sir Rider, in Bethnal Green. I was in such a hurry I didn't dress. I just wore my nightgown. On the way, I saw many people running away from the fire. They all looked petrified. I do hope this fire doesn't get any worse. If it does, I shall dig a deep pit in the garden and bury my most treasured possessions (bottles of wine and a parmesan cheese) to keep them safe.



