

**COL/SJ/03/005 (MISC MSS 3.37 No. 22)**  
**Transcript of Bostock Toller's witness statement**

On Tuisday about Noone during the Burning of the Citty of London, Three men brake into a Counting house at Holborn Bridge, I first finding them there, asked what they did there, who answered, that they were sent by the L[o]rd Craven (who had that morning to stop the ffire going farther than the Ditch, on either side thereof caused the houses to be pulled downe) to advise us to gett away what we could, for the fire would quickly be upon us: I thought they must say something to excuse their fact, for they had broken severall Drawers there. One of them was a ffrenchman in a Livery suite. I went downe the Yarde to see if those men, whom I had hired to cast the Hay in the Rose Inn, which was uncover[e]d, into the Ditch, were at worke; & seeing some men on the Hay, I bid them goe to cast it downe; but they gave me no answer, but went downe: im[m]ediately after their descent, a small light burning like Sulphure appeared, & p[re]sently flashed over the Hay like Brimstone, whereupon I heard them in the Inn cry fire, fire in the Hay. I went with some others to keepe itt from burning into the Streete; the ffire went towards ffleete Lane, the Ditch Side, towards Shooe Lane, up to Seacoe Lane on the back side of Snow hill towards Newgate: It was not two of the Clock I think, that Tuisday when the said Hay was fired, & no house on fire by a very great way, as is knowne to many. I did diligently observe itt, & doe verily believe that the Rose Inn was fired by Instuments & shall be of that iudgment as long

as I think of what I saw, Notw[i]thstanding what elss

I have heard from severall who told me what was

seene & observed by them which is very materiall

February 27<sup>th</sup> 1667

B Toller

*[translated]*

5<sup>th</sup> day May 1668

Taken on the oath of the said Bostock

Toller before me

W[illia]m Peake Mayor