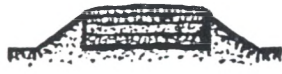
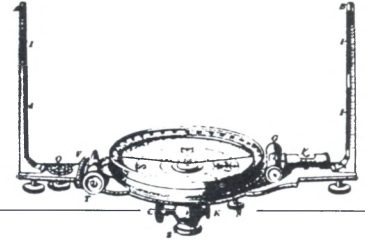


# HISTORY OF SURVEYING

## HOW THE ROAD GOT ITS NAME

FROM "PUBLIC ROADS OF THE PAST", BY ALBERT C. ROSE, WASH., D.C.:  
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HIGH WAY

The guttural source words for **ROAD**, uttered in primitive Europe long millenniums ago at the beginning of the Stone Age (?B.C.) and even at the dawn of the Bronze Age (3,500 B.C.) or the Iron Age (1,000 B.C.), perhaps will remain secreted forever in the womb of time. The modern Indo-European languages into which these words or their derivatives, became embedded, include the principal speeches of Europe as well as the Indo-Iranian and other Asiatic tongues. The most familiar early types of these languages are the Latin in the West, and the Sanskrit in the older East where we find the first intimation of a word for **ROAD**. In the Sanskrit, as early as the fourth century before the Christian era, as well as in the later Latin, the meaning of these original words was dominated by the idea of **MOVEMENT** in one of its aspects, such as: (1) The character of the motion; and (2) the mark left upon the ground by the moving person or object. Many names of vehicles were derived later from these basic names for the path of travel.

The most ancient and generic term of all seems to be antecedent of our word **WAY**. It means the track followed in passing from one place to another. Our modern word stems from the Middle English, wey or way, which in turn branches from the Latin word, veho, I carry, derived from the Sanskrit, vah, carry, go, move, draw, or travel. Our twentieth-century words Wagon and Wain may be traced back to the Middle English, wain; Old High German, wagan; Dutch and German, wagen; Anglo-Saxon, waegan, from wegan, to move, rooted in the Latin infinitive, vebere, to move or carry. The modern word for **VEHICLE**, from the Latin vehiculum, also has vehere as its ancestor and back of that the Sanskrit, vahana, a vehicle.

The word **HIGHWAY** harks back to the elevated, agger, the mound or hill of the Roman road formed by earth thrown from the side ditches toward the centre. In old England these raised, or high, ways were under the protection of the King's peace and open to public, unrestricted travel as distinguished from byways, or private roads.

Our familiar word **ROAD** is a comparatively recent origin. It is used only once in the King James version of the Bible (translated 1604 to 1611) and then in the sense of a raid, or foray (1 Samuel 27:10), William Shakespeare (1564-1616) uses the term in the sense

of a common road only three times out of a total of sixteen. The other meanings are a raid, a riding, or journey on horseback, or a roadstead where ships ride at anchor. The word is derived from the Anglo-Saxon, rad, from ridan, to ride and the Middle English, rode or rade, a riding or mounted journey. It means usually a rural way as contrasted with an urban street which originated in the Latin strata via, a way spread or paved, with stones.



TRACK

The second group of source terms may be illustrated by our words **TRAIL**, **TRACK**, or **TRACE**, describing a mark left upon the ground by sled runners, feet, wheels, or other means, from the Latin, traho, trahere, traxi, tractum, translated draw; the Middle English, trailen; and the Old French, trailer, to tow.



TRAIL

The Anglo-Saxon, pacth, akin to the Dutch, pad, gives us our modern word **PATH**, and probably takes its origin from the manner in which the earth is beaten by the foot, Sanskrit pad, and Latin pes.

Our words **ROUTE** and **RUT** are the survivors of the Latin, via rupta, meaning a way cut through the forest, or broken by a plow, wheel, travel or other means.

