

# MOUNTING BLOCK BLOCK 1654



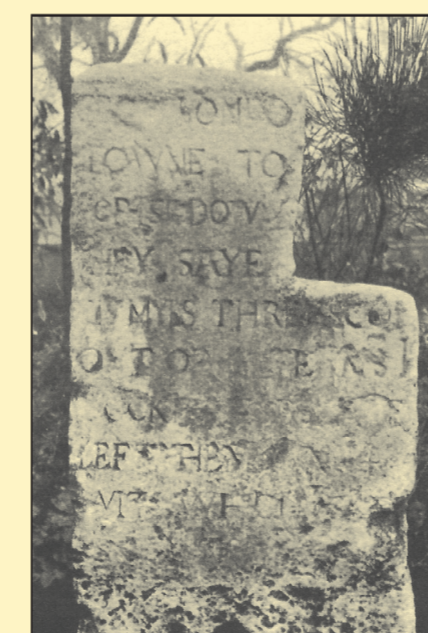
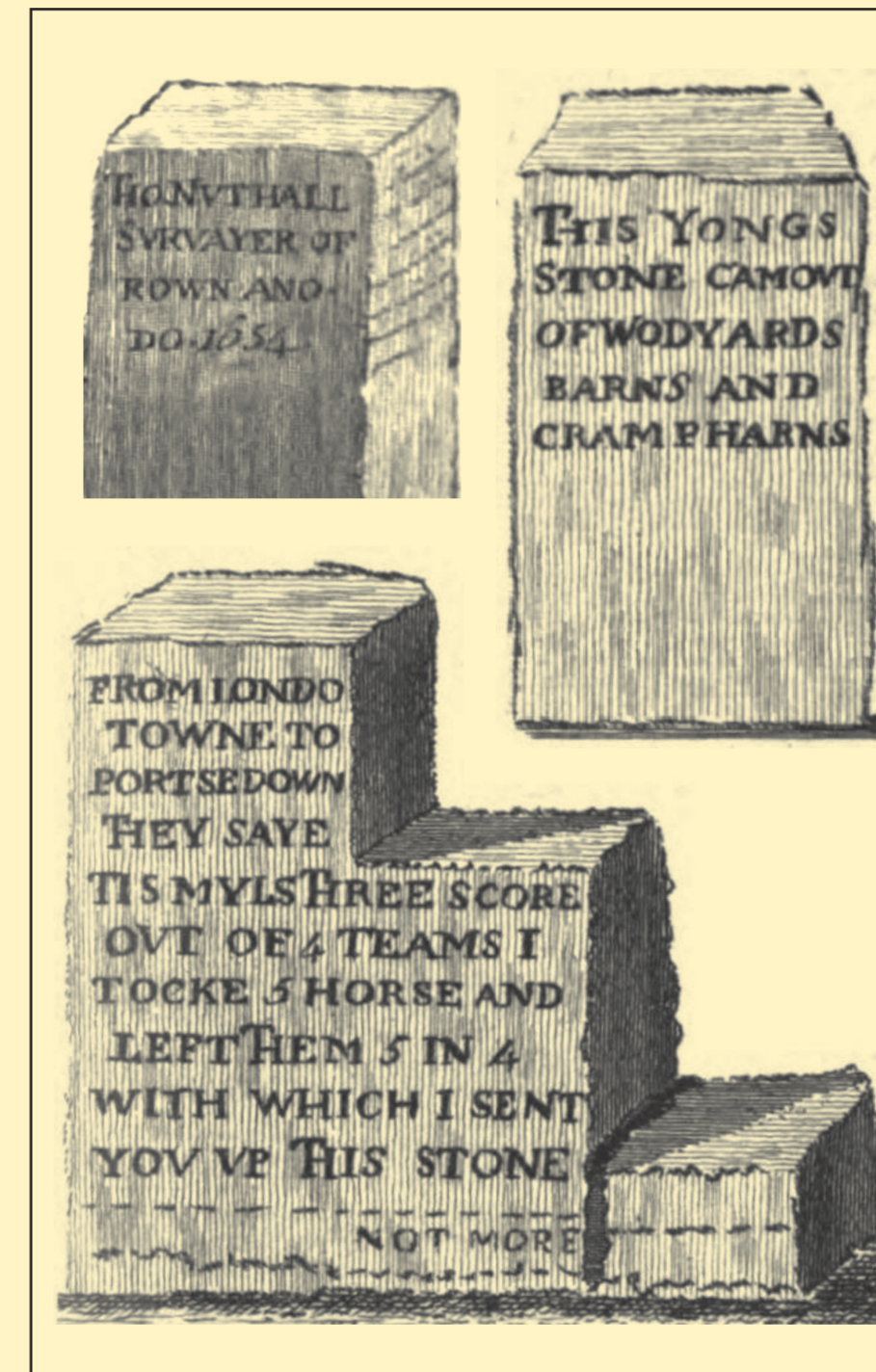
**1654:** This mounting block and unofficial milestone, to help horse-riders dismount and remount, was set up at or near this site by Thomas Nuthall of Roehampton, perhaps to mark his appointment as local surveyor of roads.

**1787:** A passing traveller described it, with drawings, in a letter to *The Gentleman's Magazine* (the first known record of it), signed anonymously J.L. of D\_\_\_\_, Kent. Apart from MYLS THREE SCORE from LONDON TOWNE, the inscriptions, most now lost, are largely enigmatic. Ogilby had two London-Portsmouth distances: a 'dimensuration' of 73½ miles, close to the present official distance, and a 'vulgar computation' of 60 miles. J.L. wrote that it was "opposite the 9-mile stone." (see below)

**1814/1821:** Mentioned by Manning & Bray (1814) and Thomas Kitson Cromwell (1821) but then lost, perhaps removed for road improvements.

**1921:** Rediscovered during the demolition of a barn in Parish Yard, off Wandsworth High Street (opposite the end of Putney Bridge Road). How it came to be there is a mystery. It was identified by local historian and nurseryman Ernest Dixon, who purchased it and displayed it in his nurseries (later garage) on West Hill. It was subsequently moved to the garden of a local house, then stored at Wandsworth Museum and the University of Roehampton.

**2018:** Re-installed at or near its original site.

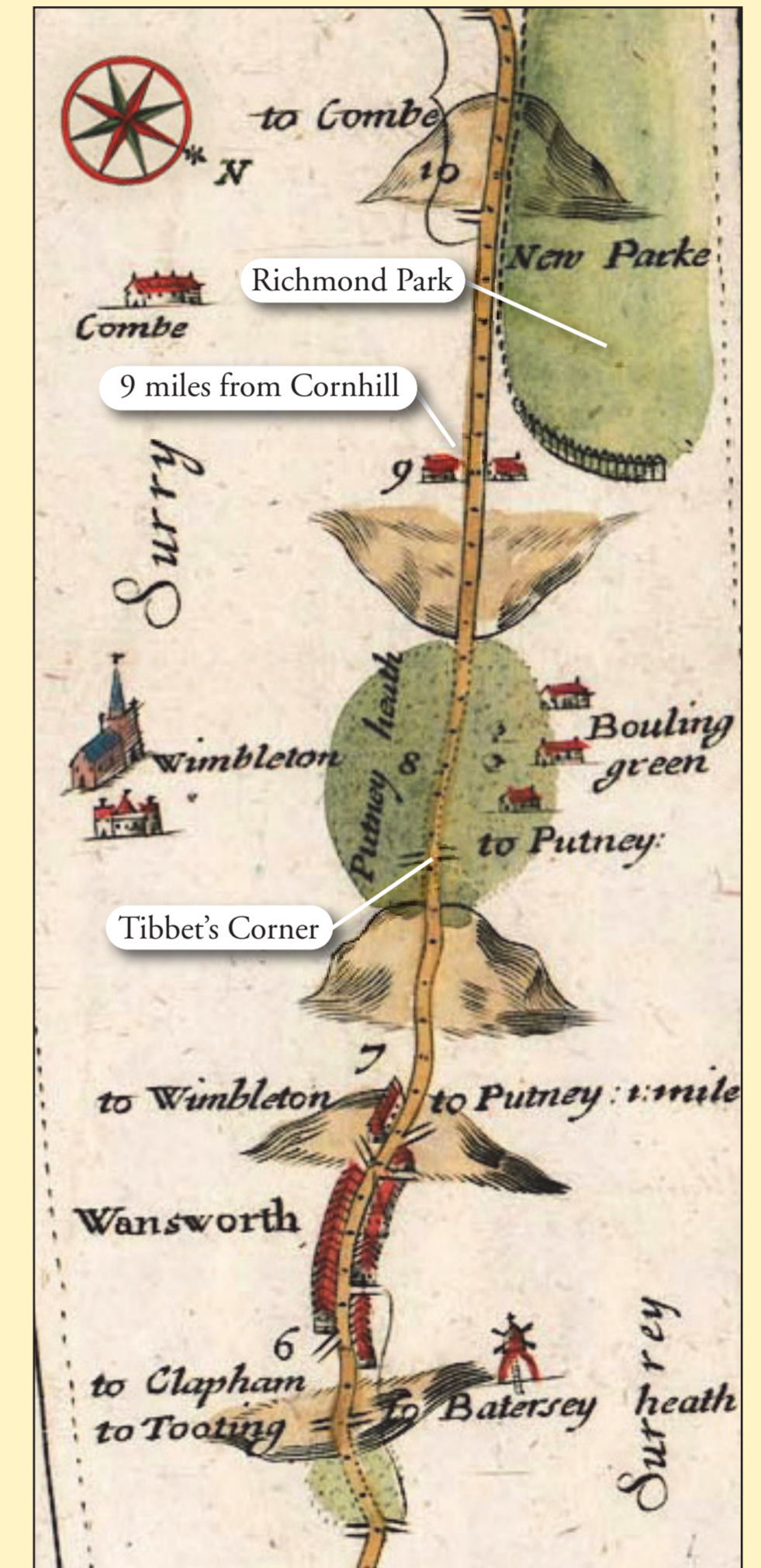


Above: Inscriptions drawn by J.L. in 1787


Left: In Dixon's Nurseries

## Timeline

- 1616: Shakespeare dies
- 1642: Isaac Newton born
- 1647: Putney Debates
- 1649: Charles I executed
- 1653: Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector
- 1660: Restoration of Charles II



Part of John Ogilby's 1675 linear map of the London-Portsmouth road (now A3)



### 9-Mile Stone

This damaged milestone, at the top of the nearby pedestrian subway, was set up by an 18th century turnpike trust, with the inscriptions: ROYAL EXCHANGE 9 MILES (only the word ROYAL remains) and WHITEHALL 8½ MILES. The 8-mile stone east of Tibbet's Corner (Ogilby has the 8-mile point west of it) and 10-mile stone by the Robin Hood roundabout are long since lost but a 7-mile stone survives on West Hill, Wandsworth.