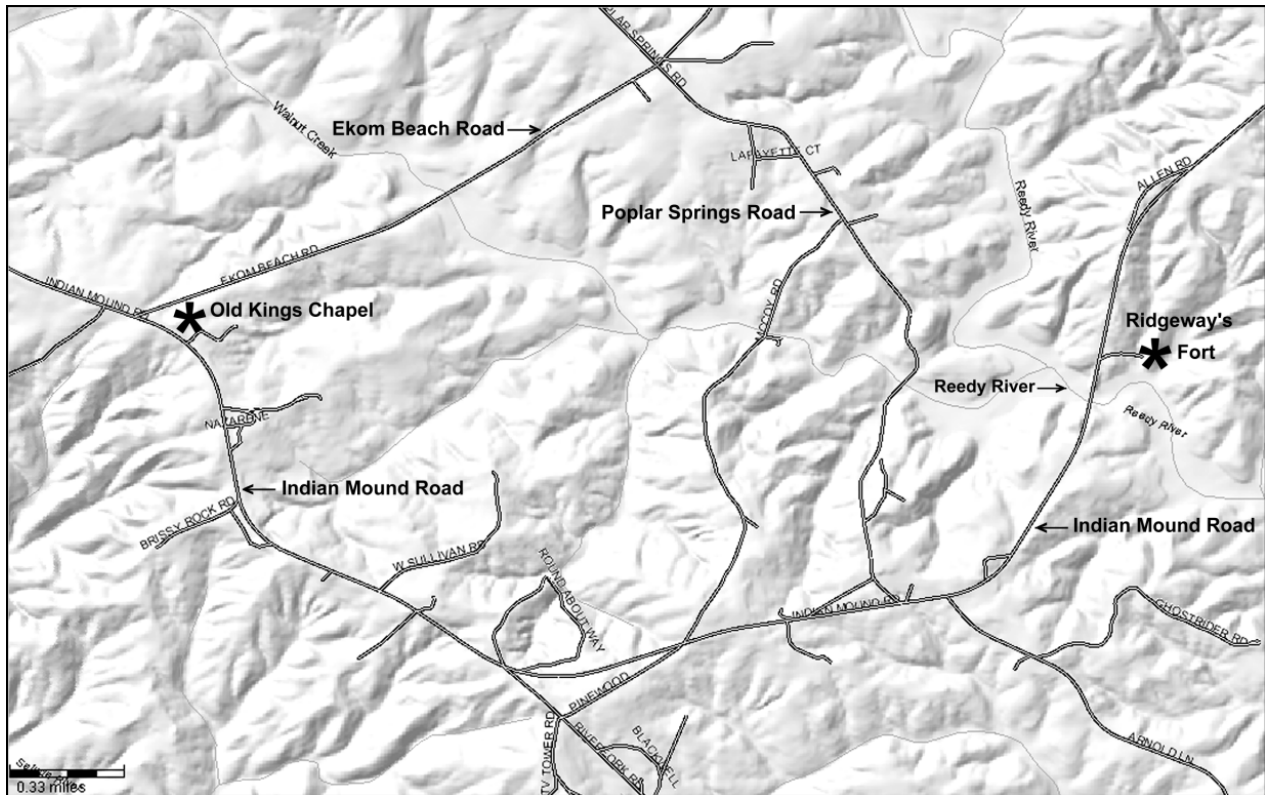


Ridgeway's Fort (Reedy River)



Old Kings Chapel

GPS: 34.39530°N 82.18575°W

Confidence: 5

Ridgeway's Fort

8/1/1781 & 9/3/1781

GPS: 34.39347°N 82.13648°W

Confidence: 3

Directions: From the junction of Ft. Lindley Road and Ekom Beach Road, to west on Ekom Beach Road for about 5.0 miles the **Old Kings Chapel** site on the left. **Ridgeway's Fort** requires going back to the intersection of Ekom Beach and SC Highway 54 (Poplar Springs Road), then turn right, go to the road's end, turn left onto Indian Mound Road and to about 1.2 miles to the road on the right to the site.

Dirty Creek Action: (See previous page for the map location and GPS.) Thomas Arnold in his pension application stated that after the expiration of his three months stay in North Carolina, he was marched back to South Carolina to the Ninety Six District by Patriot Capt. John Ridgeway. Arnold continued under his command until South Carolina Loyalist militia Maj. William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham killed Ridgeway on Dirty Creek. **Note:** Arnold did not state that this was the location of Ridgeway's Fort, just that the killings were somewhere along Dirty Creek. Dirty Creek is south of the map above, but is shown on the map on the previous page.

Ridgeway's Fort Action 1st: There were two actions at Ridgeway's Fort. Two blockhouses were erected on the Reedy River to protect the frontier settlers from periodic incursions of Native Americans and later by Loyalists. They were garrisoned by men from the Little River Regiment under the command of South Carolina Patriot militia Capt. John Ridgeway. The date of the first skirmish is unknown, but was a British victory. Only one reference gives a date of 8/1/1781. Nothing else is known about this action.

Ridgeway's Fort Action 2nd: On September 3, one of Maj. William Cunningham's detachments attacked this post. Capt. Ridgeway, another officer, and eight privates were killed. The remainder of the Patriots surrendered.

Note: No one knows where Ridgeway's Fort was located, but the Ridgeway family owned land in this area on the north side of the Reedy River. This site was chosen because it is on high ground, close to main roads, the Reedy River, and the Kings Chapel. Tradition tells us that Ridgeway once escaped the Tories by jumping into the river and hiding under an overhanging bank. This gives an added indication that his fort was at or very close to the site on the map. These sites and Dirty Creek are significant. It must also be noted that this area was the backcountry of South Carolina, so written accounts of the actions are not well documented due to a lack of writing skills, paper and pencils. The residents in the backcountry were mostly merchants, adventurers, farmers, traders, and trappers, not scholars. The pension applications were made from 30 to 60 years after the Revolution, so memories could have faded.