

[The Quarter Round Road](#)

How did the [Quarter Round Road](#) get its name? It is a strange name for a road. I have wondered about that for a long time. In my youth, I lived in the [Goucher](#) community near the road. I often traveled it and during high school I sometimes drove a school bus on it. Up until the early 1950s the road was largely unchanged from what it had been during [Revolutionary War](#) times. At that time, it was scraped and made into an improved dirt road but was not paved until several years later.

As an adult, I decided to write a book about the [Battle of Cowpens](#). The book's title is *Spirit Up the People - Four Days to the Cowpens*. In doing research for the book I also researched the story of the [Quarter Round Road](#) but could not find the origin of its name. Evidently, the road was started to provide access to [Easterwood Ford or Shoals](#) across the [Pacolet River](#). The [Easterwood Ford](#) is located several miles downstream from [Trough Shoals](#), the site of the town of [Pacolet Mills](#). It is located several miles upstream of historic [Grindal Shoals](#) where General Morgan and his little army camped before the [Battle of Cowpens](#). Mills Atlas of 1825 says that Easterwood was the upper limit of navigation of the [Pacolet River](#). Before the Civil War, large quantities of cotton were grown in that area. This cotton could be shipped downstream on flat boats to be sold. Over time, hundreds, if not thousands of wagons, traveled over the [Quarter Round Road](#) to [Easterwood Ford](#).

The road played an important part in the events leading up to the [Battle of Cowpens](#). Col. Banastre Tarleton's British army crossed the [Pacolet River](#) at [Easterwood](#) on the morning of January 16, 1781 in their effort to catch up with Gen. Morgan's American Army. They had to use the eastern part of the [Quarter Round Road](#) to get to the [Green River Road](#). Today, part of the [Green River Road](#) is South Carolina Hwy. 211 or Asbury Highway.

The [Green River Road](#) was important because it was the same road that General Morgan and his American Army were using to flee from the British. Morgan had been camped at [Grindal Shoals](#). He had received word that the British Army was coming after him and they left that camp on the morning of January 15, 1781. He and his Army headed north on the [Green River Road](#). After a short distance the road joined Hwy. 211 or the Asbury Highway. He traveled northwesterly on the road until he turned right at a small intersection. Today, from this intersection, north, for several miles, it is known as the Goucher School Road. This is a new name, up until the 1980s or 90s, this part of the road was still known as the [Green River Road](#).

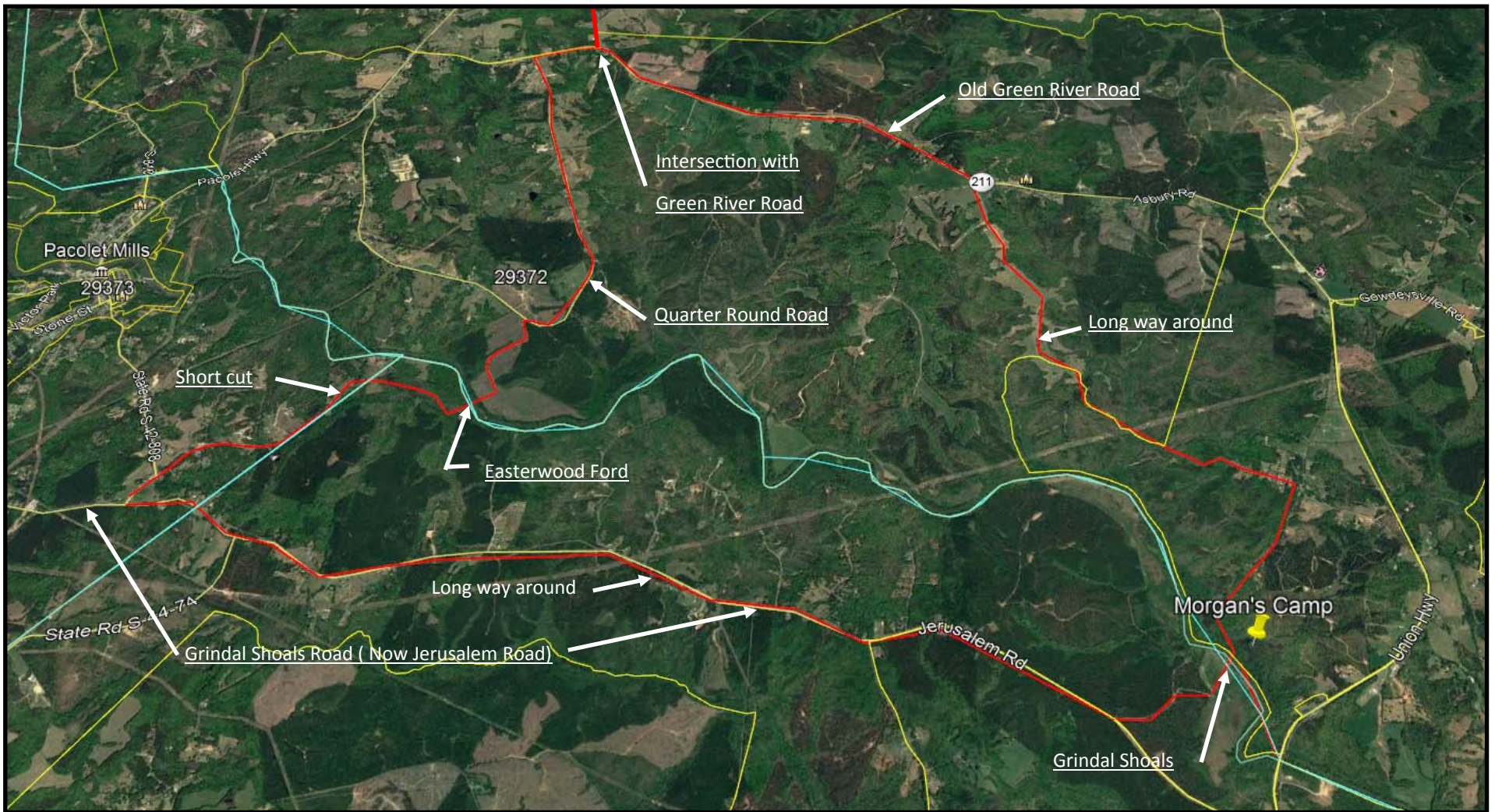
Today, this intersection is close to the Knuckles Chapel Church. On the morning of January 16, 1781, Tarleton and his Army were heading to this same intersection, from the other direction, after crossing the [Pacolet River](#) and traveling up the [Quarter Round Road](#).

[It is just a theory on my part](#) but I believe a clue to the name "[Quarter Round Road](#)" might be found in the routes taken by both armies. Tarleton and the British Army were travel-

ing down what we know today as “Jerusalem Church Road”. Until recently, the road was known as the “[Grindal Shoals Road](#).” Tarleton took a “shortcut” by leaving the [Grindal Shoals Road](#) to cross the [Pacolet River](#) at [Easterwood Ford](#). If he had not done this, he would have taken the long way and traveled on down the road to cross the [Pacolet River](#) at [Grindal Shoals](#). Once across the Shoals, he would have followed the same route as General Morgan and his Army had the day before.

I used Google Earth to roughly calculate the distance of this longer route. If Tarleton had continued on down the [Grindal Shoals Road](#) and crossed the [River](#) at [Grindal Shoals](#) and then proceeded to the Knuckles Chapel intersection he would have traveled about 12 miles. I did the same thing to find the distance Tarleton traveled by taking the shorter route across [Easterwood Ford](#) and the [Quarter Round Road](#) and it was about 5 miles. During the [Revolutionary War](#) era, both routes followed the natural terrain and the roads and not been straightened at all. The actual distances then would be longer than what I calculated from Google Earth.

Both armies arrived at the same intersection near Knuckles Chapel Church but a day apart. Tarleton’s Army traveled about 5 miles from the time they left the [Grindal Shoals Road](#). If he had not taken the shortcut and continued on down the road to cross at [Grindal Shoals](#) he would have traveled about 12 miles. The 5 mile distance is not one fourth or one quarter of the 12 mile distance. However, it is much shorter. My theory is that people would say that the distance across [Easterwood Ford](#) was about one quarter of the distance that you had to go if you went the long way around. I believe that over time, this expression was carried over to use in the name “[Quarter Round Road](#).” **This is strictly a theory and I have no historical proof at all that this is how the road got its name.** I would love to hear it if you have a different story about how the road was named.



This map shows the two different routes in traveling from the present day Jerusalem Road, formerly the [Grindal Shoals Road](#) to the old [Green River Road](#). It can be seen that the route via [Easterwood Ford](#) is much shorter than going by way of [Grindal Shoals](#).