New Format for the NCSSAR Patriot Graves Registry

When you open the North Carolina Patriot Graves Registry you will see that it has a new look! I have switched the Registry from being presented in its previous Portable Document Format (.pdf) to being presented as a MS Excel spreadsheet (using Microsoft's current .xlsx format). While there are advantages to the .pdf format, I believe that presenting the Registry in a spreadsheet format will make it more usable for most people.

As in its previous format, the Registry is shown in its default organization – ordered by Patriot Last Name, First Name, and Middle Name. While this is a reasonable way to organize the Registry if you are looking for the information on a particular Patriot, there are other ways that you might want to search the Registry. Say you want to see all of the Patriot graves in a particular county. You may download the Registry to your computer and if you use MS Excel you may use the "Data → Sort" command set by first highlighting the entire data area [holding down the Shift key, select all of the column headings from "A" to "Y" (all of the data cells in the selected columns will change color after this is done). **Note**: Be careful to select ALL of these column headings], then click on "Data" in the top left tool menu, followed by clicking on "Sort" in the list of selections that then appears. This will open the "Sort" dialogue box. The Registry does use column headings, so in the upper right corner of the dialogue box make sure that box next to "My list has headers" is checked. Using the "Sort" dialogue box you can sort the data in the Registry in many ways, but since we only want to sort by county in this example, in the "Add levels to sort by:" area and from the first row of that area that starts with "Sort by", and in the cell under "Column", click on the up & down arrows and select "County". If you wanted to apply other sorting variables you would apply your next variable in the "Then by" row, but as this is a simple example just highlight that second row and click on the minus (-) button near the lower left hand corner of the dialogue box – this deletes the second row. Finally, click on the "OK" button in the bottom right corner – all of the Registry data is sorted into county order and you just scroll down to the county you are interested in. You may sort the Registry by any of its columns or by multiple columns making it easier to find the specific data that you are looking for. The hyperlink in the bottom left corner of the dialogue box, "Learn about sorting", will help you learn the more advanced features of sorting.

In addition to switching to MS Excel as the means of data presentation, I have also begun a project of adding to the data in the Registry. In its previous incarnation, the Registry only listed those graves that have been marked and reported by the SAR in North Carolina. But there are many Patriot graves in the State that have not yet been marked by the SAR. In 2007 the North Carolina Society Daughters of the American Revolution published a book, "*Revolutionary War Gravesites of Soldiers, Patriots, and Ancestors Buried in North Carolina*". This book lists thousands of Patriot gravesites across the State. I have begun the very slow and tedious process of entering all of the NCSDAR data into our Registry. When this process is completed you will be able to sort the data by county to find all of the known graves in your particular county and then by "SAR Marker" to determine if there are unmarked graves in that county. I hope that this will assist chapters in identifying Patriots that they may want to honor with a grave marking ceremony.

Finally, I have also begun the process of adding photos of graves to the Registry and of expanding the location data for the gravesites in hopes that this will assist users in finding the specific grave that they are looking for.

This is YOUR Registry, please let me know how I can make it more useful for you!