

Pine Shavings

Piney Woods Chapter #51
Texas Society of Sons of the American Revolution

October 2008

Volume 18, Issue 11

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A Message from the President



“Dick” Nixon. President and Five Star General Dwight D. Eisenhower was the first Texas born President who was born at Denison, Texas, October 14, 1890. His parents were David Jacob and Ida Elizabeth Stover Eisenhower. President Eisenhower was our 34th President serving from 1953 to 1961. I remember pencils, stickers, flags and pins given out in a campaign parade in Sonora, California, where I was attending High School. Barbara was in school in Escalon, California, and kept her pin.

Why is this important? Because Barbara’s collectable Pin says “I Like Ike”. A church down the road disagreed. Their sign in front used to announce the next Sunday Program read “We Don’t Like Ike”.

I drove over to see how Jim and Mary Richards were and the neighborhood looked much the same as the 1983 Hurricane Alicia. At that time we lived just a few blocks from Jim behind Kingwood Middle School. Several houses on the Richards Street were structurally damaged by Ike. Ray

and Marty Cox had a limb sticking out of their roof. Ray says there was no roof leak. The limb was tightly embedded.



Louisville, Sept 25th., at the national Hdqrs Building, Ron Barker, Larry Stevens, Jim Jones.

My telephone and DSL were out most of the time and power down for 13 days. Everyone else I talked to did not have services either. I asked Jim Jones, who lives in College Station, to send out a cancellation notice of our September 18th meeting hoping most of you would get word.

Ron Barker, Jim Jones and I attended the Fall SAR Leadership meeting in Louisville Kentucky September 25th to the 28th. The three of us are new members of some of the national committees. Just learning the system was fun. The committees actively discussed their assigned tasks

(Continued on page 5)

- PAST PRESIDENTS**
- Ron Barker
 - Tom Green
 - Bernie Balsler
 - Don Lemon
 - Jeff Meadows
 - McLeod Smith
 - Robert McKenna
 - Bob Smith
 - Cannon Pritchard
 - James Jones
 - Ray Cox
 - Larry Stevens

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State
www.txssar.org
 March 19-22, 2009 - TXSSAR Annual Convention, Fredonia Hotel, Nacogdoches, TX



National
www.sar.org
 March 5-7, 2009 - Spring 2009 Leadership (Trustee) Meeting, Details to be announced
 July 4-8, 2009 - 119th Annual Congress, Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia



The Revolution
 October 10, 1775 - Maj. Gen. William Howe replaced Lt. Gen. Thomas Gage as Commander-in-Chief of British Army in America.
 October 28, 1776 - Maj. Gen. Howe defeated Gen. George Washington at the Battle of White Plains, NY
 October 17, 1777 - British Maj. Gen. Burgoyne surrendered to Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates at Saratoga, NY
 October 5, 1780 - Maj. Gen Nathanael Greene is appointed by the Continental Congress as Commander of the Southern Department.
 October 7, 1780 - The Over Mountain Men defeated Col. Ferguson at King's Mountain, SC/NC forcing Gen. Cornwallis to retreat from Charlotte, NC to Charleston, SC. About 2100 militia men from SC, NC, VA and about 900 Over the Mountain Men from the Jonesboro area of TN defeated Col. Ferguson and his Loyalist army at Kings Mountain. Col. Ferguson was killed in the battle. He was the only British soldier in the Battle.
 October 19, 1781 - The Battle of Yorktown, VA ended with the surrender of Lt. Gen. Charles Cornwallis to Gen. George Washington.

Our largest expenditure is the cost of our newsletter. Help us eliminate mailing newsletters thereby saving money on mailing. Please send your e-mail address to Ron Barker at ron.barker@hp.com and/or Jim Mims at jhmims4@aol.com and/or Larry Stevens at wardtracker@aol.com.

Meetings

Come and join us at the next meeting.



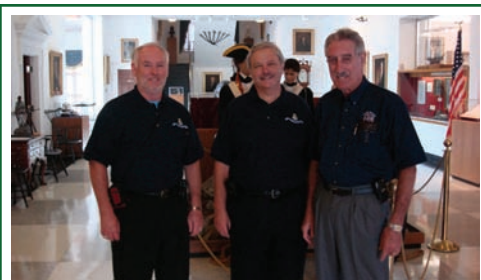
PineyWoods Chapter 51
Meeting Schedule 2008



November 20 Guest Speaker and Dinner
 December 13 Officer Nominations and Dinner

Historic Louisville, Kentucky and Home of NSSAR Headquarters

The Fall Leadership meeting was the first time Ron Barker, Jim Jones, and I (Larry Stevens) had ever been to Louisville. The three



National Hdqrs, Louisville.

of us were placed on national committees after the National Congress in Sacramento this past summer. We walked from the historic Brown Hotel where we were lodging to the Museum District. Our purpose was to see what our organization purchased. The new Headquarters and Center will be located right across the street from the Louisville Slugger Museum. The building needs a lot of work to say the least but the structure is there for build out. Just down the street are other museums.

The current Headquarter location is in the other direction from the Brown Hotel. We took the twenty minute walk up the street and through the campus of historic Spaulding Prep-school and College. The building is quite ordinary and does not appear to have a lot of tourist traffic. The displays and painting in the museum area are worth the visit. One display is a replica of George Washington's Signet Ring. The real ring is locked in a Louisville bank vault.

Ron Barker and I visited Old St. Thomas Church and Museum a received a great history lesson. First to settle in Bardstown, near Louisville, was a Catholic Diocese in 1783 and in 1785, Holy Cross Parish was established. Rev. M. Whelan was

the first priest sent to Bardstown and Kentucky in 1787. And, in 1808, the dioceses of Bardstown, Boston, New York, and Philadelphia were established. Important to the town of Louisville was the founding of the Sisters of Loretto and Sisters of Charity in 1812 by Reverends Nerinckx and David and Sister Catherine Spaulding and other dedicated Nuns. Sister Spaulding founded the first orphanage, thought to be the first west of the Allegany's, in 1819 called Bethlehem. Spaulding College, named after sister Catherine, grew from the orphanage school.

The first homesteaders in 1795 were Thomas and Ann Howard settling on nearly 370 acres on Beech Fork River. Their first log house was built during that winter.

They welcomed missionaries into their home to provide religious instruction and to celebrate Mass. When the first Bishop of



At the national Headquarters, picture in back is by Trunbull, a reproduction.

Bardstown arrived, Benedict Joseph Flaget, in 1811, he received the farm as a bequest from the Howards and named the property after their Patron Saint, St. Thomas the Apostle. St. Thomas Church celebrates Mass today and is a great place to study the history of Louisville, a busy stop for our western moving ancestors.

Happy Birthday			
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
Bernie Balsler Raymond Cox Kenneth Fleming Larry Stevens Larry Cheatum James Craig Reese Jeff O'Neal	Ron Austin Allen Henshaw Paul Luther Worthy Warnack, Sr. James Mims Donald McKenna Thomas McKenna John Albright	John Dorsey Clay Warlick Charles McKim, Jr. Edwin Pierson, Jr. Pat O'Neal	Dennis McKey James Richards, Sr. Robert L. McCain

October 14, 2008 Business Meeting

President Larry Stevens began the meeting at 6:30 PM with the benediction; Compatriot Jim Richards lead the Pledge to the US Flag and Texas Flag, and Compatriot Allan Hewshaw, the SAR Pledge. In attendance were nine members: Ron Barker, Allan Hewshaw, Jim Jones, Jim Mims, Kim Morton,



Bob McKenna, Jim Richards, Larry Stevens, and Walter Thompson. Kim Morton brought some artifacts his father brought home from Japan after 1946; a short officer sword, a knife, a bayonet, some political posters, and a drawing of his father at the time. One of the treasures he shared was a photo of an advertising poster for a radio show Kornsa-Krakin on KWTO Springfield, MO. The round poster has a picture of his mother and her twin sister who performed as a sisters act. Other performers at KWOT included greats like Chet Atkins, Red Foley, Porter Wagoner and Billy Walker. They also performed at the Grand Ole Opry. Think of the elbows they rubbed!

President Stevens asked for the officer reports. Vice President and Treasurer Ron Barker passed out a treasurer report. He said it was not up to date because he has not received a bank statement. Kim Morton and Larry Stevens gave him statements they received. Kim Morton gave Ron an expense statement for incidentals. He continued with his Vice President report. He said Jerry Focktman would be our November 20, 2008 Dinner Meeting Speaker. Jerry was going to speak at our Sep-



tember meeting that was cancelled because of Hurricane Ike. Ron gave a report on our youth programs. He had our JROTC Bronze Medals and said we now have 15 High Schools. He passed out information on enhanced packages and asked those presenting the bronze medals to take the scholar-



ship information to the High School JROTC Program leaders. He said last year we only had one participant. He said that President Larry Stevens referred Whispering Pines Elementary School to him. They are interested in our SAR Poster contest. Contest instructions will be given to the school. He suggested giving the school information on the American History Teacher Contest. Robert McKenna gave the Register report. He has two applications pending the arrival of proof. He said possibly within a month they could be sent up for approval. He said he has two more applications he and Kim Morton are helping the applicants find the proofs. He said they are difficult but he believes they are making progress.

Jim Mims said he is working on the next Newsletter and wants to send it the middle of next week. Everyone commended his work. President Stevens told the group that the PineyWoods Newsletter has become a National SAR competitor and that he has given Jim handouts for the SAR Newsletter Committee he picked up in Louisville.

There was no Secretary or Web Reports in the absence of Jim Mitchell and Ray Cox. (Continued on page 6)



The Center For Advancing America's Heritage

NSSAR fund drive continues. Since purchasing the building last year, the NSSAR fund raising committee has been working hard to get the money needed to refurbish and construct new offices and the SAR Library and Education Center. At the Fall Leadership Conference in Louisville, September 25-27, 2008, fund drive committee member and past NSSAR President Rowland Downing, who spent some of his career in Beaumont, announced

they had received a one million dollar donation from a private foundation. This large donation has reduced the building fund needs to about four and one half million.

Your support continues to be very important. Information about the Center and how you can donate to this project can be found on the SAR Website. Our past chapter President and District 8 VP Ray Cox also has this information.

Website

A color version of this newsletter along with other chapter related items and various SAR links can be found on our website at:

www.txssar.org/PineyWoods

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and reports.

Mr. Jones had to fly back early Saturday the 27th. The Aggies were playing at home. Ron and I toured Louisville all of Saturday afternoon.

Our October 14, 2008, business meeting at Homewood Suites, was a little different. Kim Morton brought some artifacts from post WWII Japan collected by his father, a young USMC officer, during 1946 and 1947.

VP Ron Barker discussed our JROTC program. Our Chapter now presents Bronze Medals at fifteen area High Schools. We need help with these presentations. And, the Chapter has agreed to take a more active role in the SAR JROTC Enhanced Scholarship contest. We are going to deliver the contest packages to the JROTC school program leaders in person and explain what it takes to win. Two years ago the PineyWoods selection for first place, placed first in the TXSSAR contest and second in the SAR National Contest taking home a total of \$2200.

Our Chapter Color Guard has been asked to present and post the Flags at a District 13 Naturalization Ceremony at the Battleship Texas Park by the San Jacinto Battle Ground on November 10, 2008. We will be joined by some other Chapters as in the past. This would be a

great opportunity for us to show up in mass. If you have never been to a ceremony, you should attend. On Veterans Day, November 11th, our color guard has been invited to participate in the Whispering Pines Elementary School Veterans Day Celebration.

November 20, 2008, our Member/Guests meeting will be at the Homewood Suites beginning at 6:30 PM. Jerry Focktman will be a speaker. Jerry was to be our speaker at the September meeting cancelled by Ike. The meeting in December will be on Saturday, the 13th, a Christmas Dinner, from 4PM to 8PM at the home of President Larry and Barbara Stevens.

PLEASE DON'T MISS IT!

See you then,
Larry Stevens





(Continued from page 4)

President Stevens said he turned in data for the chapter quarterly report to District 8 VP Ray Cox. This information is the data for our 2008 Annual Report. The Chapter Color Guard members have participated in 26 activities, 36 appearances by color guard members, including Laredo, the National Convention, and Fall leadership meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. He said the chapter has presented one Fire Medal and one Flag Certificate.

President Stevens said the December meeting would be at his home on December 13, 2008. We will have a Christmas Dinner from 4PM to 8PM at the home of Larry and Barbara Stevens. He said the Color Guard has some events scheduled. Saturday, October 18th, 2008, they will post flags at the Lady Houston DAR Chapter's 20th Anniversary meeting at the log cabin by Herman Hospital at 2 PM.



November 10, 2008, Veterans Day weekend, the Piney-Woods Color Guard and others, will be posting the col-

ors for a District 13 Naturalization ceremony at the Battleship Texas. Mr. Stevens encourages the members to attend. On November 11, 2008, the chapter color guard and members have been invited to appear in uniform at Whispering Pines Elementary in uniform to help them celebrate Veterans Day. And, the George Washington Day Parade, February 21, 2009 in Laredo, has five PineyWoods Color Guard members planning to march. President Stevens said he has a total of 12 Texas Color Guard members committed to date. He said he is hoping this would be a large SAR turnout for the largest George Washington Day Parade in the USA.

At 8:00 PM, President Stevens concluded the meeting by giving the invocation. The members recited the SAR Closing.

Larry Stevens
President

Jim Mitchell
Secretary



Bob McKenna (above)



Guest Speaker for November 20, 2008

Due to Hurricane Ike, our September meeting was cancelled. Mr. Jerry Fochtman will be our Guest Speaker for our November 20, 2008 meeting. Our September newsletter carried Jerry's full biography so only a reminder of the presentation is restated below.

Jerry Fochtman, parent of two Eagle Scouts sponsored by the Piney Woods Chapter that have won recognition at the state and national level, will be making a presentation that shows how the field of numismatics, or coin collecting, relates to the history of our country, and in many ways, was influenced by events that also molded our nation.



(l-r) Joseph, Jerry, Jason Fochtman. Joseph and Jason

Genealogy

In my last newsletter (Sept 2008), I provided many internet sites to gather information. Now lets take a look at some of the software programs out there to help keep your files at your fingertips. Many of us already have software we are using but this may help if you are considering a change from your current program or if you may be wondering what is out there. Since I use a Windows based PC, I will only be able to comment on Window versions of the software—sorry Mac users. Also, I cannot get into all of the available programs so will go over the more popularly used ones.

There are many genealogy software programs available. Finding one can often be confusing. They all have the basic requirements for documenting the necessary information such as name, birth date and location, marriage date and location, death date and location and burial date and location. After that information, the rest of the program is there to provide for additional info such as sources, pictures, documents, and notes. Many programs provide for saving the file to various formats such .ged, .txt, .rtf, .pdf, just to name a few.

I have been using *Family Tree Maker* (FTM) for over 10 years now so I am a little biased in my opinion of its functions and usefulness. I have tried several, though not all, of the other programs. I just can't break away from FTM. So, I'll begin with FTM.

The latest version is FTM 2009, however, I am currently using FTM version 16. FTM 2009 is compatible with Windows Vista and I have been considering the upgrade. In general, FTM is easy to use. I like the layout and the features. Since most programs have similar layouts lets talk about some of the features.

FTM has increased the size of the notes section. Older versions had a limit on the length of notes the program would allow. This limit was increased on my current version, FTM version 16, and I have not filled up a section with notes yet. My previous version reached the capacity and I became unable to add more notes.

Adding sources to my files has always been easy in FTM. Holding down the “Ctrl” and “S” keys at the same time opens the source window. From there, it's just a matter of putting in the information. For those who do not source their files, I highly recommend do so. Many times have I been asked about a piece of information, and was glad I was able to respond back as to where I got that piece of info. Way too many people do not source their files. It's time consuming but well worth the effort, especially if conflicting info is found. Having the source helps you to determine which piece of info may be more accurate.



Another feature I have used often is the ability to save pictures to the scrapbook sections provided in FTM. One of the main differences with FTM and other software programs is that FTM stores the image within the program itself. Many programs only reference where the image is located and this becomes a problem if the image is moved to another location, such as to a CD. With FTM, the image is always available even after the original image is removed from the hard drive and placed to a CD. On other programs, the image will not be found by the program after the image is move to CD. This is the case with *RootsMagic* (RM). I downloaded RM but quickly learned of this problem then stopped using the software. Other than the referencing problem, it was a good program. I like having my images stored within the program so I went back to FTM, even though I was beginning to like RM's other features, many of which FTM also includes.

I also like the ability to create charts and genealogy reports using FTM. There are several options allowed by the program but I usually stick to the standard, NGS Quarterly (Descendant Report), because it has little “+” signs next to a person where additional information is included. I

(Continued on page 8)

Genealogy (cont'd)

(Continued from page 7)

can then save the report to my hard drive and usually do so as a .pdf, though there are several ways in which I could save the report.

Another feature of FTM is its ability to find information that may be a match for a person in your file. Only problem is you need a subscription to ancestry.com to retrieve the possible match and the possible match may not actually match the person in your file. While this is a good idea, I have stopped using this feature as it seemed to bring up way to many possible matches that were not even close to the person I was looking at. If this feature gets refined to consider more than just a name when returning possible matches, it would be a great feature. I have not seen in any reviews or articles that this feature has been improved. I am pretty sure this feature is not in any other program.

I have mentioned my major dislike with RootsMagic previously. The software is cheap in price and is a good software but I just don't want to worry about having to find an image on a CD after I have moved it from my hard drive. RM has a great feature that provides for various reports as well as customized reports. The customized report is what I was after and what FTM could improve upon.

Personal Ancestral File (PAF) software is provided for free by the Latter Day Saints. In my opinion, it is lacking in its abilities. But since it's free, it would be a great place to start compiling info. However, I believe most users would eventually switch to a more advanced program once they decided they really want to keep at their quest of family history.

The *Master Genealogist* software program I have not tried. I hear it's not user friendly. I also hear the reports are more statistical than other programs like FTM, RootsMagic, and PAF.

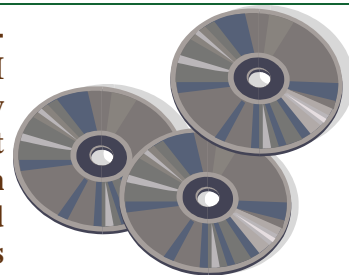
The best program I have seen so far is *The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding* (TNG). This program operates more like a website program and, in my opinion, is for those whose files have become extremely large. I have over 29,000 people

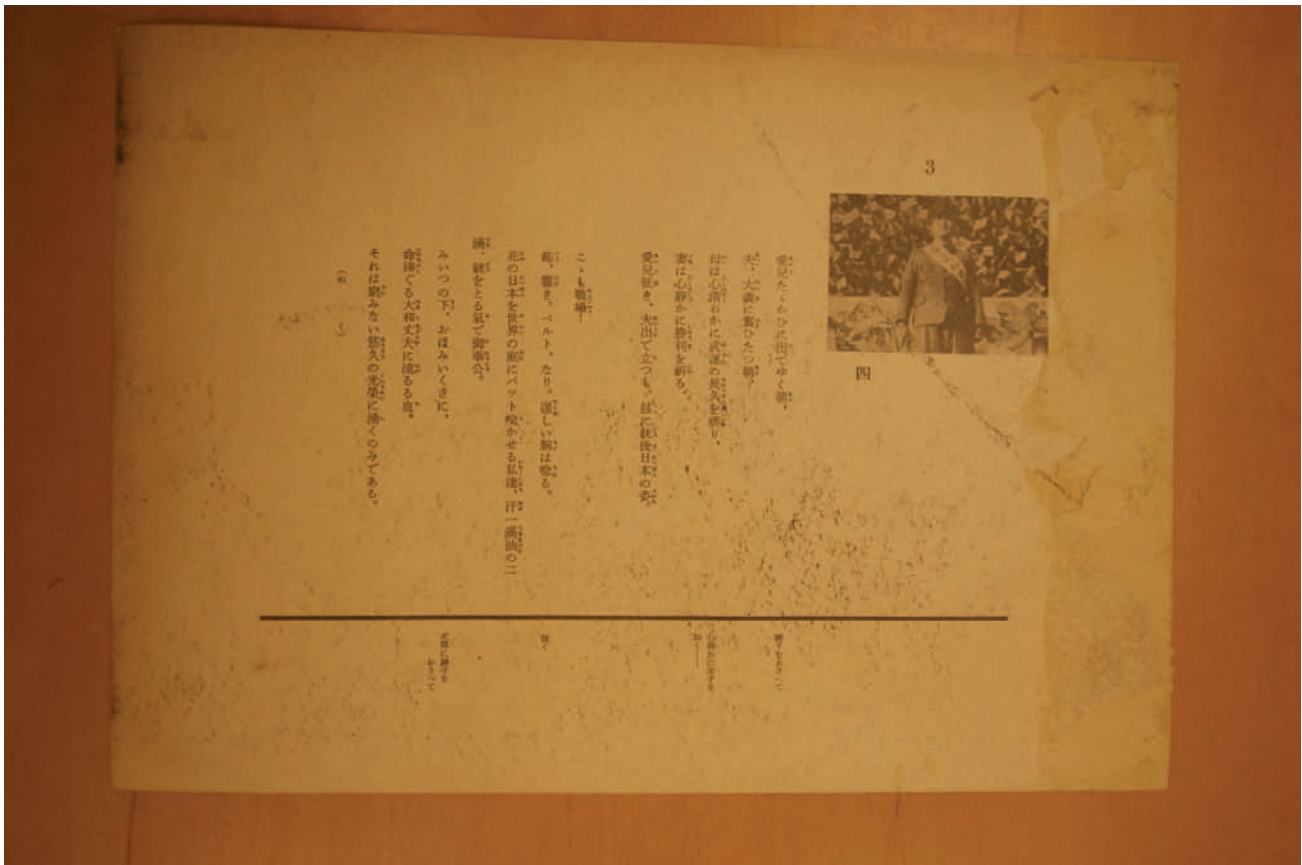
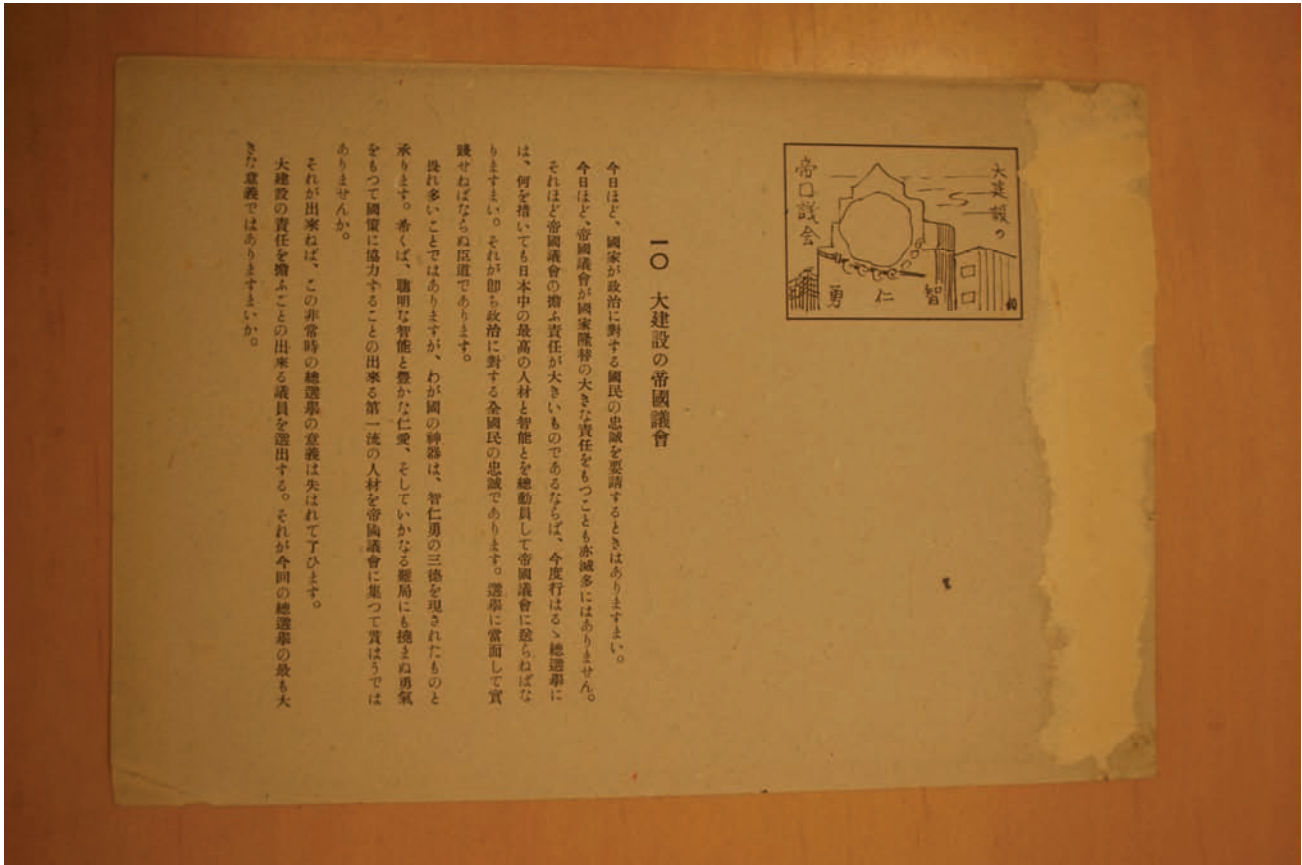
in my file. My file is getting to be too big for FTM as the program is really running slow when first opened as well as when updating. I was warned of similar issue by others with large files, much larger than my own file, that I would begin seeing issues with FTM once I got around 23, 000 people in my file. They were right. They are former FTM "die hards" but have switched to TNG and love it.

I understand it's a bit complicated at first but makes up for the slow start once you get the hang of it. One major complication is the need for a server to be able to upload to and the cost associated. While it's not expensive to get and maintain a web site, it is a cost most users, myself included, are not willing to partake. I really like the way the program ends up looking and I understand it can handle large databases (one of the users I keep up with has over 200,000 people in his file, another has over 43,000). This program also allows other users, when allowed by the owner, to actually update the program. This is great when your personal fun really becomes more like a business. While the first user, mentioned above, still provides his file for free, but accepts donations, the second has gone to more of a subscription based file to help offset the costs of maintaining the server space and many people have continued to help provide her with info and the necessary money. She is a great person who for years provided the info for free and I know she hated to charge money but all agreed to help her. She has a large and loyal support group, of which I have not seen elsewhere.

I am not an expert but hope maybe this has provided some light on some of the software programs out there. I am keeping an eye on FTM and may be making the switch to the new version this year in hopes it will perform better than my outdated FTM version 16, especially since it was built for Windows Vista.

Jim Mims







Official Newsletter

**PineyWoods Chapter, #51
Texas Society,
Sons of the American Revolution
P. O. Box 6524, Kingwood, TX 77325**

UPDATE !

We're on the Web

UPDATE !

www.txssar.org/PineyWoods



PineyWoods Chapter #51
Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution
P.O. Box 6524
Kingwood, TX 77325
TO THE POSTMASTER
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**RSVP FOR THE NOVEMBER 20, 2008 MEMBERS DINNER MEETING
At Homewood Suites, Kingwood Park Dr. Kingwood TX 6:30 PM**

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Friday, November 14th. You can send an RSVP email to Kim Morton at Genmorton@usa.net or Larry Stevens at wardtracker@aol.com OR you can call Larry Stevens at 281-361-2061. Please RSVP to one person only. Payment of \$15.00 per attendee will be collected at the meeting.