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MARCH 18, 2017 1:00 – 3:00PM

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## The Military Tract - Revolutionary War Bounty Land in Central New York *Presented by Skip Duett*

New York State awarded Revolutionary War bounty land in the Military Tract in Central New York. Comprising 1,680,000 acres, it covered all of the present day counties of Onondaga, Cortland, Cayuga, and Seneca and parts of Oswego, Tompkins, Schuyler and Wayne counties. This military bounty land opened up Central New York to white settlement and left an enduring system of land designation that survives today. Your New York Revolutionary War soldier may be identified in Military Tract documents. Understanding NYS bounty lands can help you make sense of land transaction in the region regardless of when your ancestors lived there.



**A brick wall roundtable discussion** with Skip Duett, Janeen Bjork and CNYGS members will follow Mr. Duett's presentation.

## Breaking through Brick Walls, One Brick at a Time *Presented by Janeen Bjork*



Janeen will give a quick lesson on OCR (optical character recognition), the technology that allows scanned newspapers to be indexed and searched online. You'll learn how to get around the limitations of OCR to unearth hard-to-find items. Janeen will share the methods she used to break through the brick walls for her toughest genealogy commission - multiple generations of O'Briens, starting in County Cork, Ireland and continuing to Monroe, Orleans and Onondaga counties.

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### About our presenters

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**Janeen Bjork**, raised in DeWitt, NY, has been mining online newspapers for family history and teaching others how to do the same for the last five years in Connecticut and New York. Ms. Bjork's professional life includes 30 years as a television researcher, programmer and consultant. Her sister-in-law recruited her to genealogy, explaining, "You are going to do this for your niece and nephew." Bjork put her detective, analytic and presentation skills to work on a dynamic tree that included over 100 years of family photos and over 150 years of newspaper stories for her young audience. The professional researcher has found thousands of family stories and items online that range from the mundane to the sensational.

**Skip Duett**, professional genealogist and author (*Mohawk Valley Ehles and Allied Families*), serves on the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society Family History Advisory Committee and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, New England Historic Genealogical Society, National Genealogical Society, and CNYGS. He is actively involved in the newly-formed CNYGS DNA Interest Group. Skip has been researching his own family in New York for over 20 years and has been accepting clients since 2013. [www.UpstateNYRoots.com](http://www.UpstateNYRoots.com)

Meetings (unless posted otherwise) are held at the  
**Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church, 5299 Jamesville Rd., DeWitt, NY 13214**

**Annual CNYGS single membership dues: \$30.00**  
Guests welcome for a \$5 donation per half-day/ \$15 full-day session.

**Contact person:** Janet Brown - **Phone:** 607-753-3461 **e-mail:** [JanetBro7@gmail.com](mailto:JanetBro7@gmail.com)  
**CNYGS website:** [www.cnygs.org](http://www.cnygs.org) **e-mail:** [cnygs@yahoo.com](mailto:cnygs@yahoo.com)  
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CNYGS, PO Box 104 Colvin Station, Syracuse, NY 13205