

It is time to come home – Homecoming Scotland 2009 Seminar

Date: Sunday April 6th, 10am-4pm

Venue: The New York Public Library South Court Atrium, Humanities and Social Sciences Library, 5th Avenue at 42nd Street, NY 10016

Keynote speaker: Arthur Herman, author of 'How Scots Invented the Modern World'

Join VisitScotland as we gear up for Homecoming Scotland 2009, a year of celebration of Scottish culture. Attend our one-day Homecoming Scotland-themed seminar at the New York Public Library's South Court Atrium.

Listen to lectures on Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, the Scottish Enlightenment, and Scottish Ancestry and Emigration and take the chance to explore your Scottish roots with VisitScotland's ancestral experts.

Each lecture within the seminar will end with a question and answer session with the speaker. There will be a further question and answer session with all the day's speaker at the end of the day.

This is a free event, but PLACES MUST BE RESERVED in advance. Please email genealogy@visitscotland.com to reserve your place, stating your preference for attending the morning or afternoon session or both.

Event programme

MORNING SESSION (10:00 – 12:00 pm)

10:00 am - WELCOME

Welcome by the host, Scottish author Cameron Taylor & by Philip Riddle, Chief Executive, VisitScotland

10:25 am – SCOTTISH ANCESTRY & EMIGRATION

Lecture 1: *To cross the broad Atlantic* – Cameron Taylor.

The Scottish emigrant experience in context and up close and personal

11:00am – ROBERT BURNS, SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL POET

Lecture 2: *Should auld acquaintance be forgot* – Karen Cunningham, Head of Libraries, Culture and Sport, Glasgow

Auld Lang Syne and other treasures of The Mitchell Burns collection

Burns Recital – Andrew Weir

Lecture 3: *The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum* – Robert Lovie, National Trust for Scotland

12:00 pm – 1:00pm – LUNCH BREAK/TRACE YOUR SCOTTISH ROOTS

During the lunch break, why not take the chance to trace your Scottish ancestry with VisitScotland's ancestral experts

AFTERNOON SESSION (1:00pm – 3:00 pm)

1:00 pm – WELCOME

Welcome by the host, Scottish author Cameron Taylor

1:20 pm – ENLIGHTENMENT AND INNOVATION – *sponsored by Glasgow: Edinburgh Collaboration*

Introduction to keynote speaker by Laura Gordon, Director, Glasgow: Edinburgh Collaboration

Lecture 4: *Enlightenment & Innovation* – **Keynote speaker: Dr Arthur Herman, author of 'How Scots Invented the Modern World'**

2:00 pm – SCOTTISH ANCESTRY

Lecture 5: *Clan and Community* – Donald MacLaren, Chief of clan MacLaren
From realism to romance and back again

2:35 pm – QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Your chance to put questions to each of the days' speakers

2:55 pm – VOTE OF THANKS

By Philip Riddle, Chief Executive, VisitScotland

3:00pm – 4:00pm TRACE YOUR SCOTTISH ROOTS

A chance to trace your Scottish ancestry with VisitScotland's ancestral experts & an opportunity to chat to all of the day's speakers