

13:30–14:45 Session 7A

Speaker: Bruce Durie — *Regular and Irregular Marriages in Scotland Before 1834*

Chair: Kathy Wallace

The Church and the State wanted all marriages in Scotland to be “regular”: conducted the way they stipulated. But certain forms of “irregular” marriages were still valid, including betrothal before witnesses and antenuptial contracts. Sometimes these left no records, but on other occasions they did. So how did this situation come about? And how recently did it end? Bruce describes the various forms of marriage, identifies sources for research and tells a few good stories along the way.