

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 005

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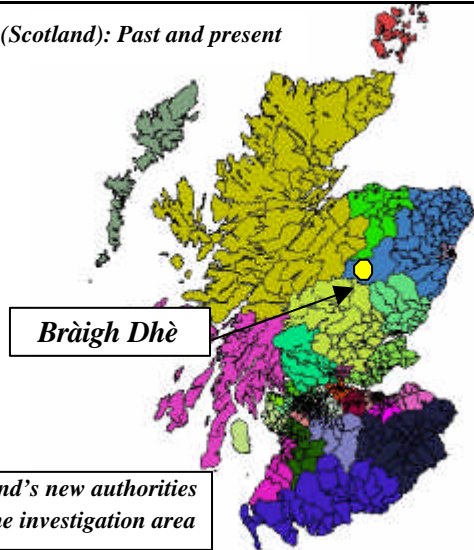
Area: *Bràigh Dhè & Gleann Muice (Upper Deeside & Glen Muick): Inbhir Call, Achadh Chaladair, Inver, Carn na Cuinge, Miagra, Bail Mhoireil, Obair Gheallaidh & Gleann Muice*
 (Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Invercauld, Auchallater, Inver, Carnaquoheen, Micras, Gerach, Crathie, Bridge of Bush, Balmoral, Abergeldie, Glen Muick)

Number of households: 248 Population present at census night: 1.110

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 8.0 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Aberdeenshire	Crathie & Braemar	Crathie & Braemar	4	1-3
			3	1-7
			2	1-9
			1	1-17
	Glenmuick, Glen-gairn & Tullich	Glenmuick, Glen-gairn & Tullich	6	1-12
			1	1-3

Alba (Scotland): Past and present

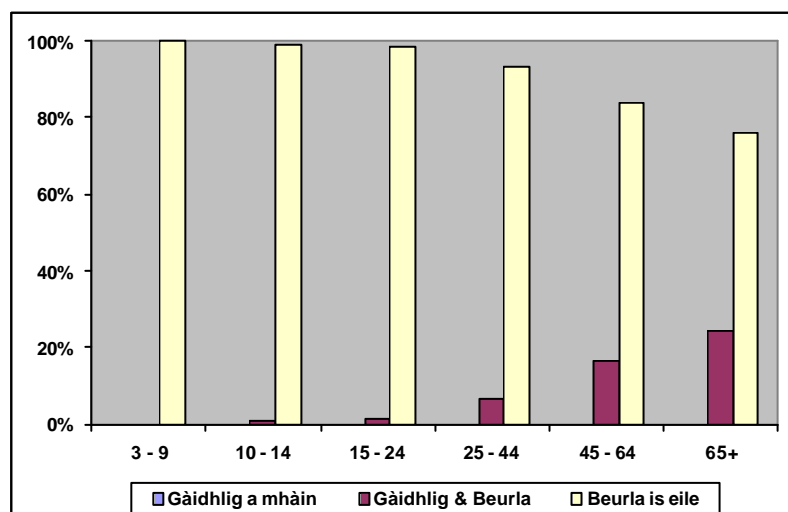


State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

Some local residents still spoke Gàidhlig – mainly in the western part on the banks of *Uisge Dhè* (River Dee). Whereas speakers in *Gleann Muice* (Glen Muick) originated from other Gàidhlig-speaking communities a considerable number of other speakers was born in *Bràigh Dhè* (Upper Deeside) or *Gleann Gharthain* (Glengairn). Of course most speakers were already older than 45 years. Language transmission between generations had apparently seized around 1850 in this part of Scotland.

Area description:

The main part of this district occupies most of *Bràigh Dhè* (Upper Deeside) between *Bealadair* (Ballater) and *Bràigh Mhàrr* (Braemar) in Aberdeenshire. In addition remote *Gleann Muice* (Glen Muick) to the south is subject of this fact-sheet. Occupations of residents were often farmers, gamekeepers or estate workers. A prominent employer in the south of this area is the Royal Estate of *Baile Mhoireil* (Balmoral).



Age profile: Share of population speaking (1) Gàidhlig, (2) Gàidhlig & English, or (3) no Gàidhlig at all

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	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. ³	Total ¹	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	1.110	51	0	64	995	0	80	8.0 %
3-4	40	0	0	3	37	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	100	0	0	4	96	0	0	0.0 %
10-14	107	0	0	4	103	0	1	1.0 %
15-24	224	0	0	19	205	0	3	1.5 %
25-44	266	0	0	24	242	0	16	6.6 %
45-64	205	0	0	5	200	0	33	16.5 %
65+	117	0	0	5	112	0	27	24.1 %
Gender								
Female	559	30	0	10	519	0	42	8.1 %
Male	551	21	0	54	476	0	38	8.0 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	607	49	0	8	550	0	47	8.5 %
In neighbouring parish¹	144	0	0	11	133	0	13	9.8 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	28	0	0	3	25	0	18	72.0 %
Other places	331	2	0	42	287	0	2	0.7 %

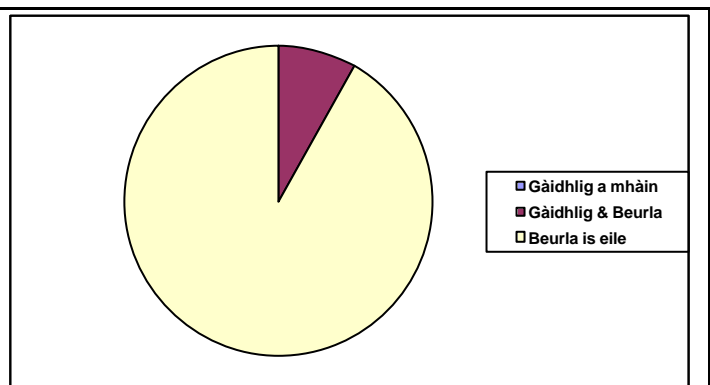
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Kirkmichael, Moulin, Atholl (all Perth); Kirkmichael (Banff); Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie, Duthil & Rothiemurchus (all Inverness).

² Other parishes in Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.

³ People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers or other similar terms.

⁴ Number of enumerated persons who were (1) older than 2 years of age, who were (2) not deaf & dumb and who (3) did not live only temporarily in the area.



Share of population speaking (1) Gàidhlig, (2) Gàidhlig & English, or (3) no Gàidhlig at all

Background of Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profiles:

The 1891 census was the first such enumeration exercise with an unequivocal language question. After more than 100 years the original census forms are publicly available for detailed analysis. During research concerned with the “Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Studies” a vast number of such local statistics have been gathered about the Gàidhlig speaking population of Scotland in that year. As many of these results could not be included in the reports these concise fact-sheets are a welcome way to publish some of the “local gems”. More information is provided at http://www.linguae-celticae.org/GLP_english.htm.

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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Craichidh & Gleann Muice</i>	248	995	0	80	8.0 %
Individual communities					
<i>Inbhir Call & Achadh Chaladair</i> (Invercauld & Auchallater)	20	56	0	11	19.6 %
<i>Inbhir & Carn na Cuinge</i> (Inver & Carnaquheen)	35	122	0	24	19.7 %
<i>Miagra & Giorach</i> (Micras & Gerach)	15	61	0	10	16.4 %
<i>Craichidh & Am Preasa</i> (Crathie & Bush)	44	158	0	17	10.8 %
<i>Baile Mhoireil & Obair Gheallaidh</i> (Balmoral & Abergeldie)	80	352	0	8	2.3 %
<i>Gleann Muice</i> (Glen Muick)	54	246	0	10	4.1 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	1	4	0	2	50.0 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	4	18	0	6	33.3 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	2	15	0	3	20.0 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	103	549	0	16	2.9 %
Households with no children (0-14)	138	409	0	53	13.0 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	60	301	0	20	6.6 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	27	87	0	14	16.1 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	10	43	0	1	2.3 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	32	157	0	8	5.1 %
Living on private means	8	19	0	3	15.8 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	15	52	0	5	9.6 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	96	336	0	29	8.6 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	0.0 %

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Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Gàidhlig speakers were of course most prominent among residents who were born in parts of the *Gaidhealtachd*. But a non-negligible number of speakers were born in the area.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Crathie & Braemar, Strathdon, Glenmuick, Glengairn & Tullich (all Aberdeen) or in the adjacent parishes of Kirkmichael, Moulin, Atholl (all Perth); Kirkmichael (Banff); Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie, Duthil & Rothiemurchus (all Inverness).

² Born in other parishes of Scotland with more than 50 % *Gàidhlig* speakers in the 1891 census.



Speakers according to place of birth (1) nearby¹ (2) in remaining *Gaidhealtachd*², or (3) elsewhere

Remarks:

1. A few households (mainly elderly couples) were returned as bilingual *Gàidhlig* speakers. There were no monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers registered in the area.
2. In original census report terms the district had a population of 1.110 persons of all ages. 84 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” leading to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 7.6 %. This was only a slight under-estimate of 0.4 % compared with the realistic figures taking into account only the usually resident population!