

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 022

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**Area:** *Srath Uachail (Strath Oykel): Innis nan Lìon, Achadh an Easa, A'Chròic, Gleann Rosail, Gleann Carsla, Bad an t-Sagairt, Dubh Choille, Gleann Muice, Inbhir Carsla, Taigh Sùigh, Tùiteam, Saileachaidh, A'Bheinn Mhòr & Caplaich*

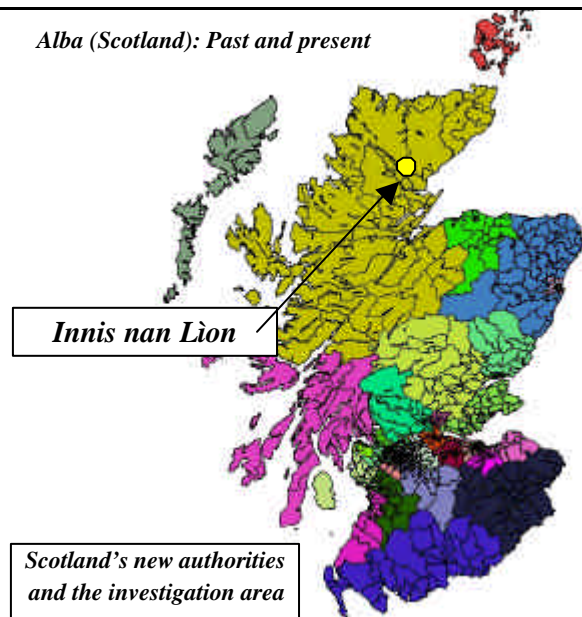
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Rosehall, Achness, Croick, Glenrossal, Glencassley, Badantagart, Dalnacleve, Duchally, Glenmuick, Invercassley, Thaesuigh, Tutim, Salachie, Benmore & Caplich)

**Number of households:** 43      **Population present at census night:** 197

**Share of resident population (aged three years +) speaking Gàidhlig:** 52.6 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Sutherland	Creich	Rosehall	2	1 - 7
			3	1 - 4

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

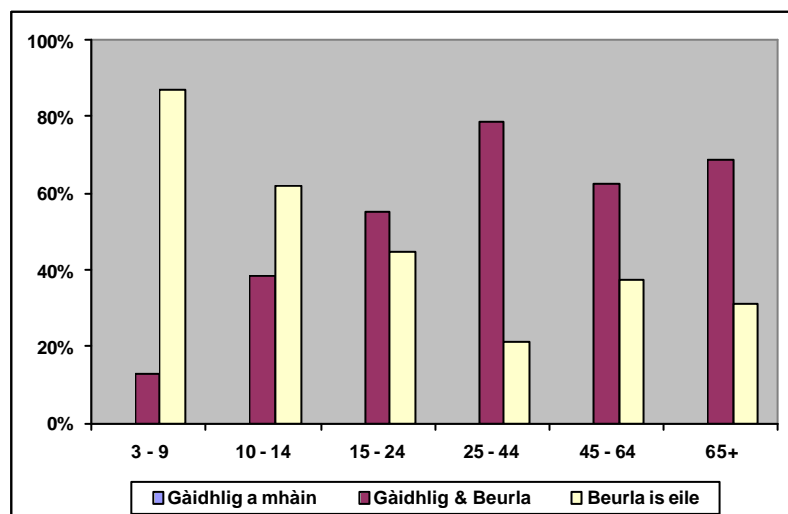
The language was used mainly in the "Highland born" portion of the population. However, even there language use in the younger age groups was on the decline with only a minority speaking Gàidhlig below the age of 15.

Strongest Gàidhlig communities were to be found in the central part of *Gleann Carsla* (Glen Cassley) and *Gleann Rosail* with over 80 % of the usually resident population speaking the traditional language in this period.

## Area description:

The district covers a few settlements in the central part of *Srath Uachail* (Strath Oykel) and in the secluded *Gleann Carsla* (Glen Cassley) in the county of *Cataibh* (Sutherland).

The scattered population was very heterogeneous with a significant minority of Lowland Scots and English people. A few farmers lived side by side with landed gentry and gamekeepers in shooting lodges on the large estates of the area.



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. <sup>3</sup>	Total <sup>†</sup>	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>52.6 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16.7 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>38.1 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>55.2 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>51</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>78.7 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>62.5 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>68.8 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>51.6 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>53.7 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>41.9 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>82.8 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>76.9 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21.2 %</b>

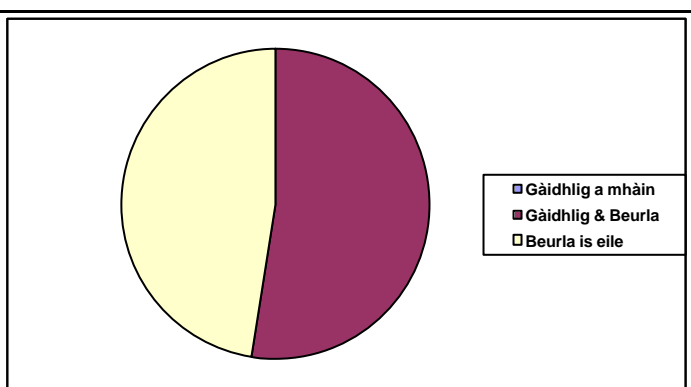
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Dornoch, Lairg and Assynt (Sutherland), Kincardine and Edderton (both Ross & Cromarty).

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

<sup>3</sup> People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers or other similar terms.

<sup>4</sup> 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](http://www.linguae-celticae.org/GLP_english.htm).

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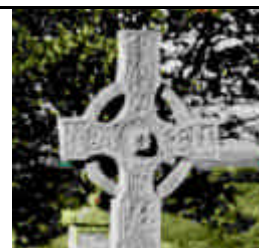
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b><i>Innis nan Lìon &amp; Gleann Carsla</i></b>	<b>43</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>52.6 %</b>
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Innis nan Lìon</i> (Rosehall)	19	61	0	33	54.1 %
<i>Achadh an Easa &amp; A'Chròic</i> (Achness & Croick)	2	10	0	9	90.0 %
<i>Gleann Rosail &amp; Gleann Carsla</i> (Glenrossal & Glencassley)	4	16	0	14	87.5 %
<i>Bad an t-Sagairt &amp; Dubh Choille</i> (Badantagart & Duchally)	3	16	0	6	37.5 %
<i>Gleann Muice</i> (Glenmuick)	1	5	0	2	40.0 %
<i>Inbhir Carsla &amp; Taigh Sùigh</i> (Invercassley & Thaesuigh)	9	40	0	19	47.5 %
<i>Saileachaidh &amp; A'Bheinn Mhòr</i> (Salachie & Benmore)	4	18	0	3	16.7 %
<i>Caplaich</i> (Caplich)	1	9	0	6	66.7 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
<b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>69.4 %</b>
<b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>60.0 %</b>
<b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16.7 %</b>
<b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.2 %</b>
<b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>73.7 %</b>
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
<b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28.1 %</b>
<b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>68.8 %</b>
<b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16.7 %</b>
<b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>66.7 %</b>
<b>Living on private means</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>70.0 %</b>
<b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40.0 %</b>
<b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>46.9 %</b>
<b>Remaining occupations</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>

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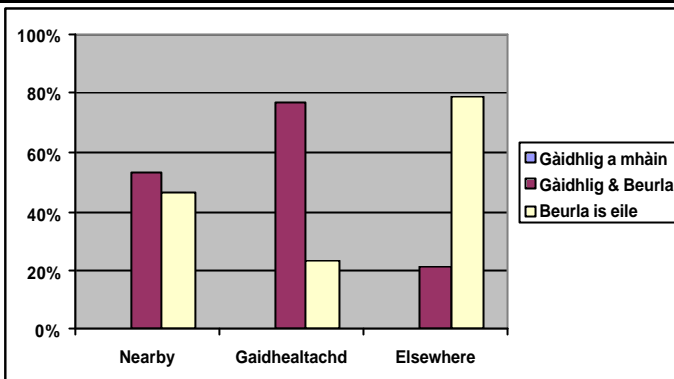
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Monolingual English speakers were very prominent also among those born in the parish. Only those born in parts of the *Gaidhealtachd* further away were returned overwhelmingly as *Gàidhlig* speakers.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Creich or in the parishes Dornoch, Lairg and Assynt (Sutherland), Kincardine and Edderton (both Ross & Cromarty).

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



Speakers according to place of birth (1) nearby<sup>1</sup> (2) in remaining *Gaidhealtachd* <sup>2</sup>, or (3) elsewhere

## Remarks:

1. Almost half of the usually resident population (83 persons) did not speak *Gàidhlig*. 45 of these “English only” speakers were part of families where at least one parent did not speak the local language. In addition also a significant part of locally born persons were not counted as *Gàidhlig* speakers.
2. In original census report terms the district had a population of 197 persons of all ages. 97 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English”. This led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 49.2 %. This figure was an under-estimate of 3.4 % compared with the more realistic figures taking into account only the usually resident population.