

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 023

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Area: *Leòdhas (Lewis): Breascleit & Pairc Bhreascleit*

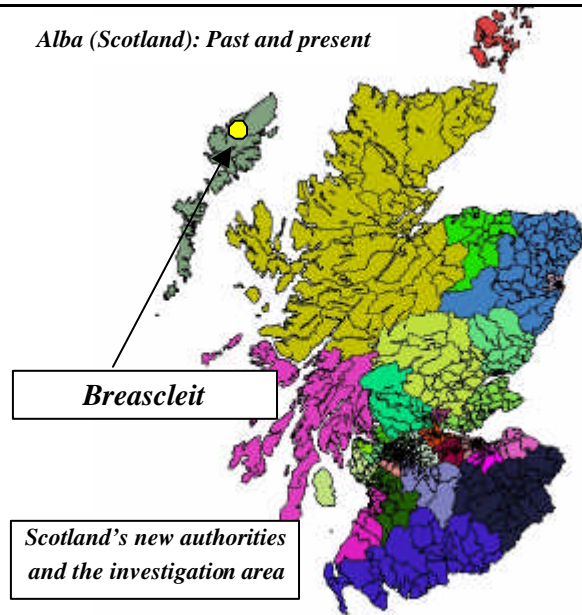
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms : Breascleite, Park Breascleite)

Number of households: 82 Population present at census night: 424

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 100.0 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Uig	Carloway	1	1 – 19

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

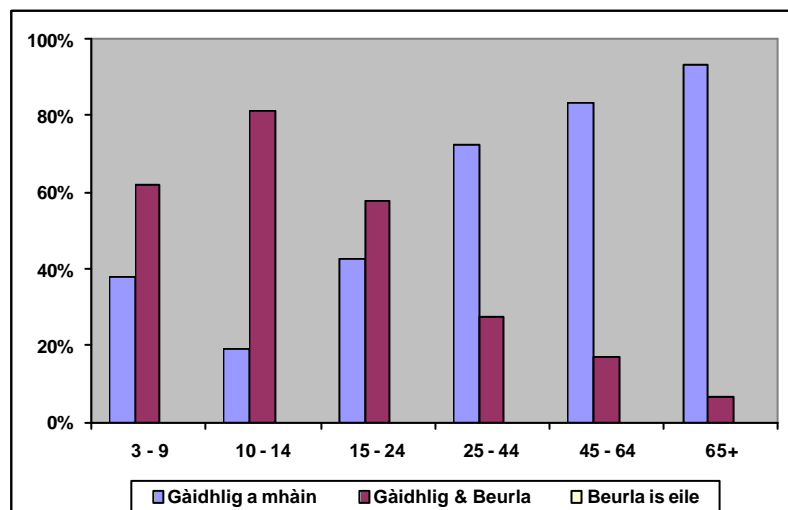
All residents spoke Gàidhlig in both crofting communities. A majority of the population did not speak English.

These monolingual persons were most common in the generations above 25 years of age. Also women were more likely to speak only Gàidhlig compared with the male population. Crofters in *Pairc Bhreascleit* had a higher share of bilingual persons than *Breascleit* proper.

Area description:

The two scattered communities of *Breascleit* (Breascleite) and *Pairc Bhreascleit* (Park Breascleite) are situated on the west side of *Leòdhas* (Lewis) in the Outer Hebrides.

Most inhabitants were occupied with crofting and a few made a living as fishermen working in the nearby sea lochs. Communication with the outside world was naturally cumbersome with the “road” to *Steòrnabhagh* (Stornoway) the main connection.



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	424	29	0	4	391	222	169	100 %
3-4	27	0	0	0	27	21	6	100 %
5-9	69	0	0	1	68	15	53	100 %
10-14	43	0	0	1	42	8	34	100 %
15-24	66	0	0	0	66	28	38	100 %
25-44	88	0	0	1	87	63	24	100 %
45-64	72	0	0	1	71	59	12	100 %
65+	30	0	0	0	30	28	2	100 %
Gender								
Female	215	13	0	1	201	129	72	100 %
Male	209	16	0	3	190	93	97	100 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	404	29	0	4	371	207	164	100 %
In neighbouring parish¹	13	0	0	0	13	11	2	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	7	0	0	0	7	4	3	100 %
Other places	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-

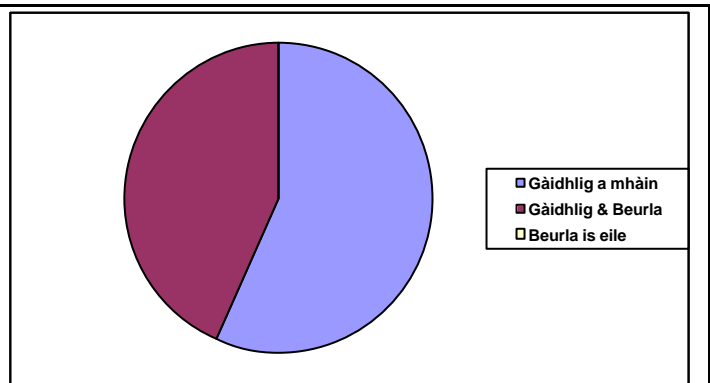
Notes:

¹Parishes of Barvas, Lochs and Stornoway (all Ross & Cromarty) or Harris (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>Breascleit & Pairc Bhreascleit</i>	82	391	222	169	100 %
Individual communities					
<i>Breascleit</i> (Breasclete)	71	325	197	128	100 %
<i>Pairc Bhreascleit</i> (Park Breasclete)	11	66	25	41	100 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	53	298	160	138	100 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	4	17	10	7	100 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	25	76	52	24	100 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	74	341	205	136	100 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	0	0	0	0	-
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	6	1	5	100 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	6	41	14	27	100 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	1	3	2	1	100 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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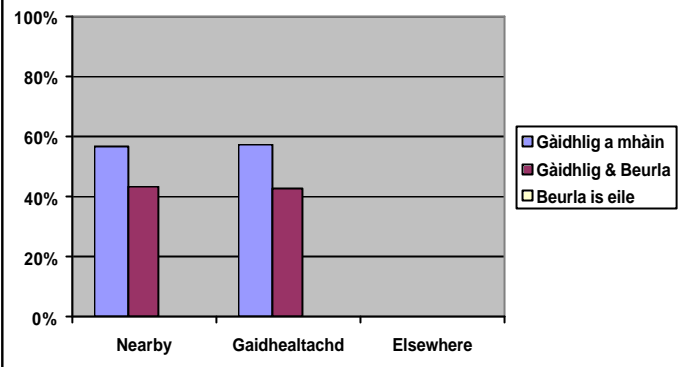
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

A majority of people born in the *Gaidhealtachd* (either born locally or further away) did not speak English. There were no persons present who originated from other places.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Uig or in the adjacent parishes of Barvas, Lochs and Stornoway (all Ross & Cromarty) or Harris (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. In original census report terms the enumeration district in total had a population of 424 persons of all ages. 180 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 224 persons were reported as monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers. These figures lead to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 95.3 %. A comparison with the more realistic statistics of this fact-sheet reveals that this percentage was an under-estimate of 4.7 % mainly caused by the inclusion of under-three olds and visitors in the official population base.