

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 024

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Area: *Toirbheartan (Torridon): Diobaig, A'Chreag, Diobaig an Àird, An Annaid, Port Làir & Lagaidh Dubh*

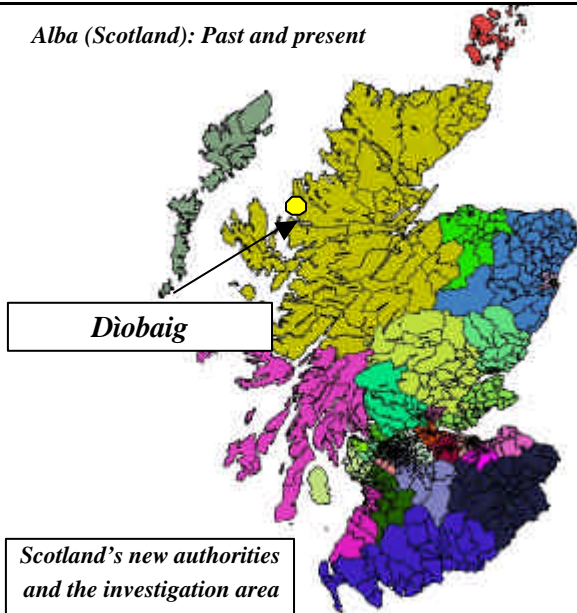
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Dibaig, Craig, Annat, Upper Dibaig, Portlair & Logie-dubh)

Number of households: 39 **Population present at census night:** 177

Share of resident population (aged three years +) speaking Gàidhlig: 100 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Gairloch	Shieldaig	1	1 - 5
	Applecross		2	1 - 7

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

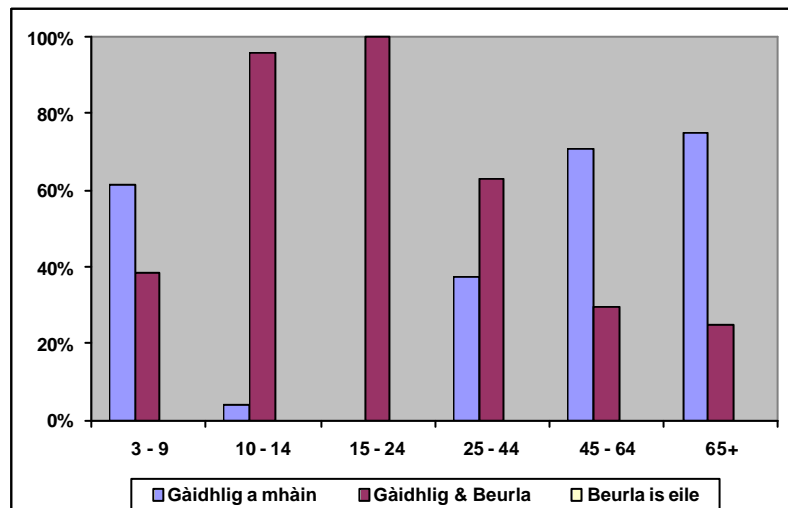
All persons living in this area spoke Gàidhlig. A very substantial part of the usually resident population did not speak English at all. Most prominent were monolingual persons in age groups below 9 and above 44 years.

In the more secluded dwellings like *A'Chreag* (Craig) and *Port Làir* (Portlair) Gàidhlig monolingual speakers still were in a majority.

Area description:

The settlements covered are situated on the remote west coast of the county of *Ros is Cromba* (Ross & Cromarty) north of the impressive sea loch of *Loch Toirbheartan* (Loch Torridon). Main hamlet was the tiny fishing harbour of *Diobaig* (Diabaig).

Major means of survival were crofting and as indicated a little bit of inshore fishing. Major avenue to the outside world was by sea.



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	177	5	0	4	168	74	94	100 %
3-4	7		0	0	7	5	2	100 %
5-9	20		0	1	19	11	8	100 %
10-14	23		0	0	23	1	22	100 %
15-24	23		0	0	23	0	23	100 %
25-44	35		0	0	35	13	22	100 %
45-64	41		0	0	41	29	12	100 %
65+	23		0	3	20	15	5	100 %
Gender								
Female	88	1	0	4	83	41	42	100 %
Male	89	4	0	0	85	33	52	100 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	149	5	0	3	141	62	79	100 %
In neighbouring parish¹	16	0	0	0	16	8	8	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	10	0	0	0	10	4	6	100 %
Other places	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	100 %

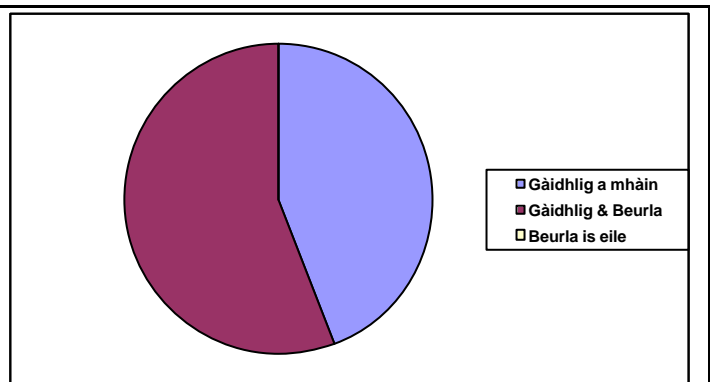
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Gairloch and Lochcarron (both Ross & Cromarty).

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>Diobaig</i>	39	168	74	94	100 %
Individual communities					
<i>A'Chreag</i> (Craig)	3	11	10	1	100 %
<i>Diobaig</i> (Diabaig)	23	110	45	65	100 %
<i>An Annaid</i> (Annat)	6	26	9	17	100 %
<i>Diobaig an Àird</i> (Upper Diabaig)	3	11	2	9	100 %
<i>Port Làir</i> (Portlair)	2	6	4	2	100 %
<i>Lagaidh Dubh</i> (Logie-dubh)	2	4	4	0	100 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	15	89	37	52	100 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	6	26	11	15	100 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	100 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	100 %
Households with no children (0-14)	18	53	26	27	100 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	31	130	62	68	100 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	1	5	1	4	100 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	7	0	7	100 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	2	8	3	5	100 %
Living on private means	1	3	2	1	100 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	100 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	3	15	6	9	100 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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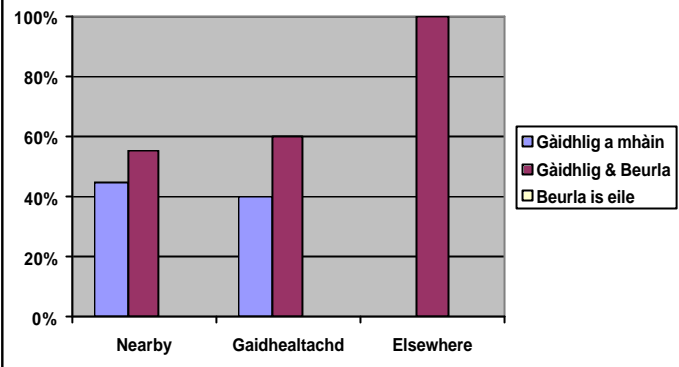
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Gàidhlig monolingual speakers made up more than 40 % of the residents born in the *Gaidhealtachd*. The few souls born outside this area spoke both *Gàidhlig* and English.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Applecross or in the parishes of Gairloch and Lochcarron (both Ross & Cromarty).

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. Every person enumerated in the area spoke *Gàidhlig*.
2. In original census report terms the district had a population of 177 persons of all ages. 94 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English”; an additional number of 80 inhabitants spoke “Gaelic only”. This led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 98.3 %. This figure was still an under-estimate of 1.7 % because children below the age of three were included in the official population base. The language ability of these young children was not registered on the census sheets.