

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 041

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**Area:** *Strath Àrdail (Strath Ardlie): Cill Mhìcheil, Baile a’Mhuilinn, Croit Dùnaidh, Gleann Geunaid, Cùl Dà Lonaigh, Dail Bheithe, Baile Càrnach, Dail nam Breac, Baile nan Allt, Baile na Cille & Baile Uilleim*

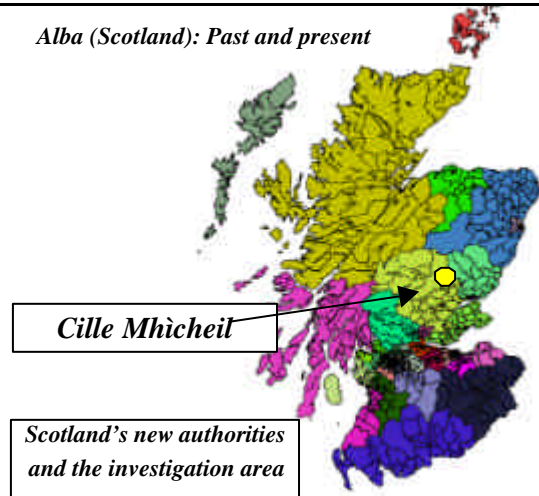
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Kirkmichael, Milton of Dunie, Croft of Dunie, Borland, Glenderby, Cultalonie, Dalvey, Pitcarnick, Dalnabrick, Woodhill, Cowhill, Balnald, Balnakeil & Williamstown)

**Number of households:** 73      **Population present at census night:** 289

**Share of resident population (aged 3 years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 43.0 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Perthshire	Kirkmichael	Kirkmichael	2	1 - 4
			2	7 (part) - 8
			1	2 - 9

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



### State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

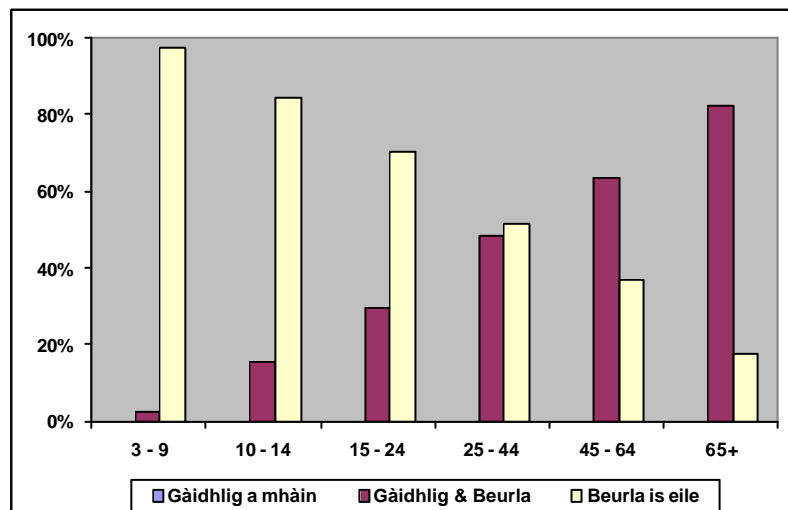
The Gàidhlig language was still spoken by almost one half of the usually resident population of the district. However, the language community was already heavily biased towards older generations. English monolingual persons held the majority among residents below the age of 45.

The strength of the language was almost equally distributed within the district with 40.8% speakers in the village of *Cille Mhìcheil* (Kirkmichael) and 51.4% in the farming community of *Dùnaidh* (Dunie).

### Area description:

This fact-sheet looks at the language situation in the central part of *Strath Àrdail* (Strath Ardlie) around the village of *Cille Mhìcheil* (Kirkmichael). It lies on the north-eastern margins of the county of *Peairt* (Perth).

Occupations of the inhabitants were relatively diverse with a strong emphasis on agriculture in the rural parts and various trades in the market town itself.



**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	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>43.0 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9.1 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>29</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>27</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15.4 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>48</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>29.5 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>65</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>48.4 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>49</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>63.3 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>40</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>82.5 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43.3 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>42.6 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>48.7 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>46.9 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>95.2 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9.8 %</b>

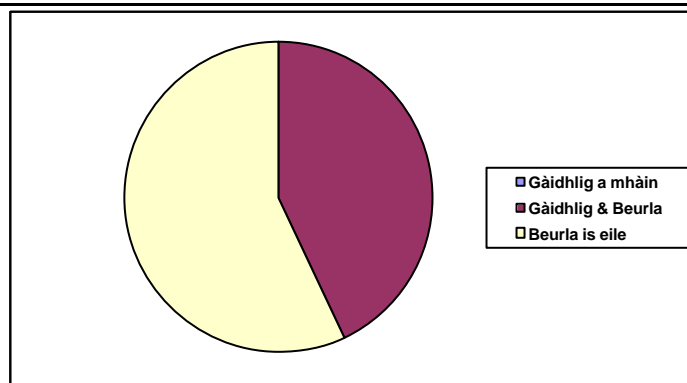
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Civil parishes of Moulin, Bendochy, Alyth, Blairgowrie (all Perth), Crathie & Braemar (Aberdeen) or Glenisla (Angus).

<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. This column includes also railway workers living in temporary huts.

<sup>5</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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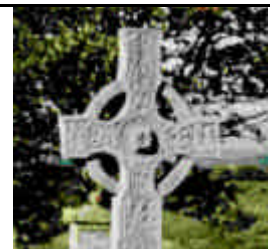
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Cille Mhìcheil &amp; Dùnaidh</i>	73	263	0	113	43.0 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Cille Mhìcheil</i> (Kirkmichael)	23	71	0	29	40.8 %
<i>Dùnaidh</i> (Dunie)	6	35	0	18	51.4 %
<i>Dail Bheithe &amp; Dail nam Breac</i> (Dalvey & Dalnabrick)	27	107	0	45	42.1 %
<i>Baile nan Allt &amp; Baile na Cille</i> (Balnald & Balnakeil)	17	50	0	21	42.0 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	10	56	0	33	58.9 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	7	25	0	15	60.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	6	34	0	7	20.6 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	13	65	0	3	4.6 %
Households with no children (0-14)	37	83	0	55	66.3 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	14	68	0	37	54.4 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	7	30	0	14	46.7 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	6	25	0	8	32.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	16	61	0	18	29.5 %
Living on private means	9	17	0	11	64.7 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	5	26	0	9	34.6 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	16	36	0	16	44.4 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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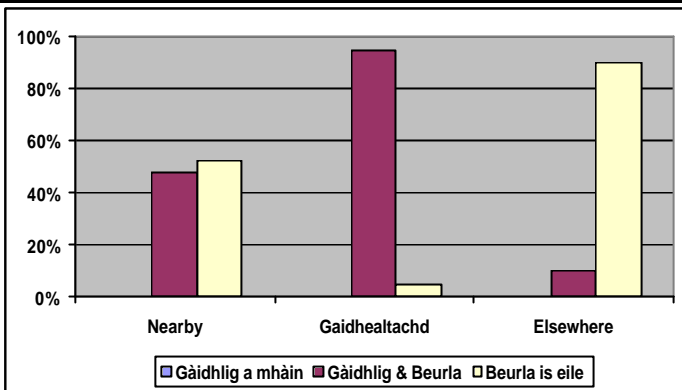
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Almost half of the locally born population still spoke Gàidhlig. People with birthplaces in the remaining *Gaidhealtachd* were overwhelmingly Gàidhlig speaking. However, those born elsewhere were very unlikely able to speak the traditional tongue.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Kirkmichael (Perthshire) or in the parishes of Moulin, Bendochy, Alyth, Blairgowrie (all Perthshire), Crathie & Braemar (Aberdeen) or Glenisla (Angus).

<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. In original census report terms the district had a population of 289 persons of all ages. 116 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English”. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 40.1 %. This figure was a slight under-estimate of 2.9 % of the figures of the usually resident population.