

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 042

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Area: *Bràigh Mhoireibh (Brae Moray): Achadh an t-Sratha, Caisteal Grannda, Lainn Mòr, Glas Choille, Druim Ghiuthais, An Damhath, Loch nan Doirb, Druim Ruadh, Gleann an Daraich, Loch an Eilein, Crannach, Ruigh Chorrach, Baile a' Bhàird, Loch Gorm, Achadh na Feàrna, Lainn MhicGriogair, Tom Dubh, Tom Bàn, Cùl Feàrna, Dail nan Uan & Boganaidh*

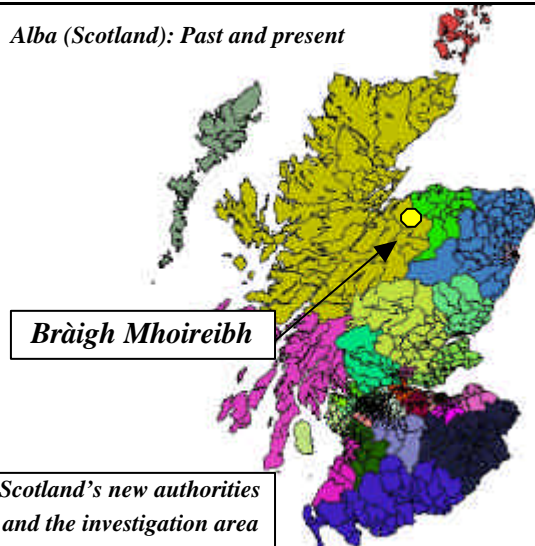
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Strathfield, Castle Grant, Garthkeen, Lynmore, Glaschoil, Huntly's Cave, Drumguish, Dava, Lochindorb, Drumroy, Glentarroch, Easter Lyme Kilns, Wester Lyme Kilns, Lochaneillan, Crannich Easter, Crannich Wester, Rychorach, Anaboard, Camerory, Ballieward, Easter Cotterton, Wester Cotterton, Lochgorm, Auchnafairn, Greengate, Lynmagregor, Tomdow, Tombain, Culfern, Dalnanuan, Braemoray, Kerrow, Aitnoch, Tiriemore, Bridge End, Auchenlochan, Lochanuan, Burnside, Bantroch & Bogeney)

Number of households: 90 **Population present at census night:** 382

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 48.4 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Moray	Inverallan, Cromdale & Advie Edinkillie	Inverallan	1	1-13
		Edinkillie	6	1-3

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

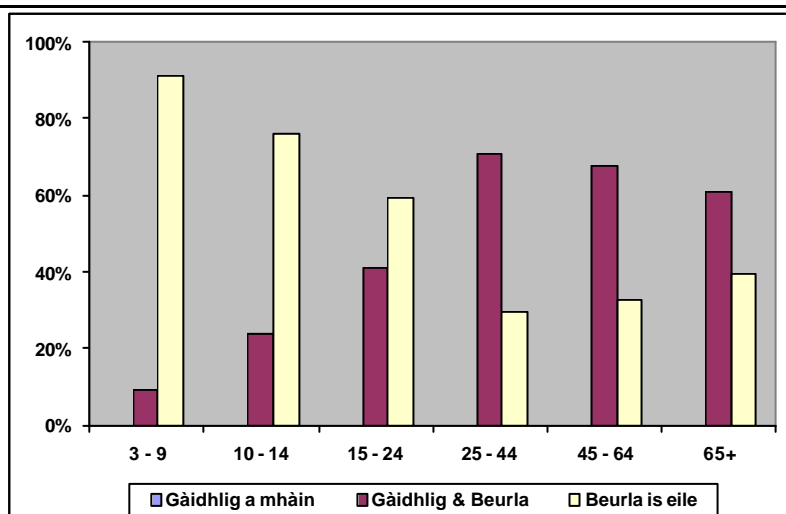
Almost 50 % of the usually resident population still spoke Gàidhlig. These speakers were mostly older than 25 years of age. But there were also a few children speaking the traditional language.

The strength of the language was quite different between the individual settlements in this area. The highest percentages were recorded in the crofting hamlets of *Glas Choille* (Glaschoil) and *Lainn MhicGriogair* (Lynmagregor) with 82.4 % and 67.7 % shares of Gàidhlig speakers respectively.

Area description:

The district in question is situated on the western margins of the old county of *Moireabh* (Moray). The settlements enumerated in 1891 included the farms north of *Baile Grannda* (Grantown-on-Spey) and the gamekeeper huts around *An Damhath* (Dava) and *Boganaidh* (Bogeney).

The railway line between *Baile Grannda* and *Forrais* (Forres) ran through this moorland – at the time of the census quite a number of persons relied on railway work for their livelihood.



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 ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	382	25	0	12	345	0	167	48.4 %
3-4	16		0	0	16	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	40		0	1	39	0	5	12.8 %
10-14	42		0	0	42	0	10	23.8 %
15-24	64		0	3	61	0	25	41.0 %
25-44	89		0	4	85	0	60	70.6 %
45-64	77		0	3	74	0	50	67.6 %
65+	29		0	1	28	0	17	60.7 %
Gender								
Female	183	15	0	3	165	0	84	50.9 %
Male	199	10	0	9	180	0	83	46.1 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	245	22	0	5	218	0	105	48.2 %
In neighbouring parish	34	0	0	1	33	0	23	69.7 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	40	0	0	5	35	0	29	82.9 %
Other places	63	3	0	1	59	0	10	16.9 %

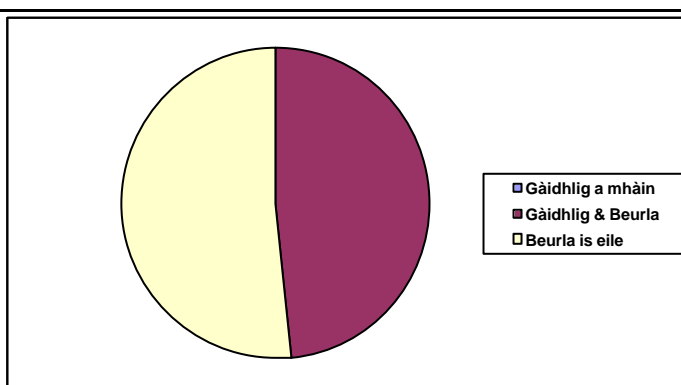
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Knockando, Dyke (both Moray); Ardclach (Nairn), Kirkmichael (Banff); Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie (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 & Beurla, 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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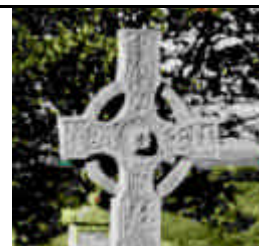
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Bràigh Mhoireibh	90	345	0	167	48.4 %
Individual communities					
<i>Achadh an t-Sratha & Caisteal Grannda</i> (Strathfield & Castle Grant)	9	40	0	14	35.0 %
<i>Tom Dubh & Cùl Feàrna</i> (Tomdow & Culfern)	13	39	0	21	53.8 %
<i>Glas Choille</i> (Glaschoil)	5	17	0	14	82.4 %
<i>Druim Ghiuthais & An Damhath</i> (Drumguish & Dava)	16	59	0	19	32.2 %
<i>Crannach & Ruigh Chorrach</i> (Crannich & Ryrorach)	10	44	0	27	61.4 %
<i>Ath nam Both</i> (Anaboard)	7	30	0	17	56.7 %
<i>Baile a' Bhàird & Achadh na Feàrna</i> (Ballieward & Achnafearn)	13	59	0	27	45.8 %
<i>Lainn MhicGriogair</i> (Lynmagregor)	11	31	0	21	67.7 %
<i>Loch nan Uan & Boganaidh</i> (Lochnanuan & Bogeney)	6	26	0	7	26.9 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	18	98	0	55	56.1 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	12	52	0	31	59.6 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	4	18	0	4	22.2 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	9	55	0	1	1.8 %
Households with no children (0-14)	47	122	0	76	62.3 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	42	168	0	92	54.8 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	11	51	0	24	47.1 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	3	10	0	1	10.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	2	12	0	6	50.0 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	8	25	0	7	28.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	24	79	0	37	46.8 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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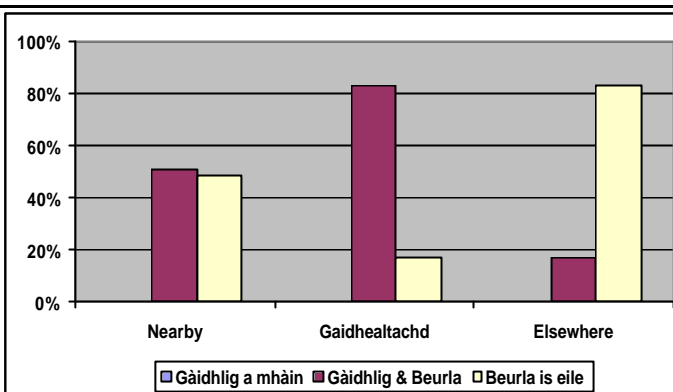
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Gàidhlig speakers were still in a majority among the locally born residents. On the other hand only a handful of those born outside the *Gaidhealtachd* spoke the traditional language of the area.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Edinkillie or Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie (both Moray) or in the adjacent parishes of Knockando, Dyke (both Moray); Ardclach (Nairn), Kirkmichael (Banff); Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie (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. There were no monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers registered in the area in 1891.
2. At the time of the census a new railway line was realised between *Baile Grannda* (Grantown-on-Spey) and *Inbhir Narainn* (Nairn). There were quite a number of railway surface men counted around Dava Station which might have “diluted” the real strength of *Gàidhlig* in this part of the area.
3. In original census report terms the district had a population of 382 persons of all ages. 174 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” leading to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 45.5 %. This was only a slight under-estimate of 2.9 % compared with the realistic figures taking into account only the usually resident population!