Alba 1891: *Gàidhlig* (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 052

Area: ***Suaineart* (Sunart): *Sròn an t-Sìthein, Àth na h-Eilde, Càrnach, Druim an Tòrrain, Lìdeasdal, An t-Achadh Liath & Labhdal***

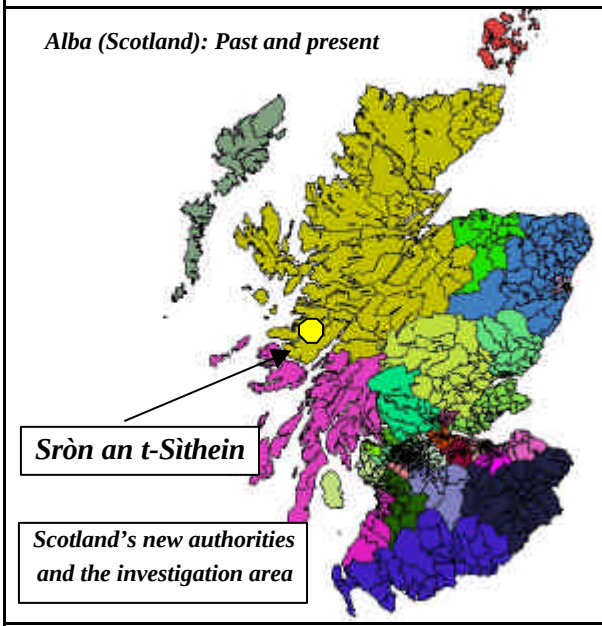
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Strontian, Anaheilt, Achnaliadh, Carnoch, Drimintorran, Laudale, Liddesdale, Achlie, Achghavol)

Number of households: 47 **Population present at census night: 267**

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking *Gàidhlig*: 96.7 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Argyll	**Ardnamurchan**	Sunart	2	1 – 6
			3	12 – 18
		Morvern	2	1 - 4

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of *Gàidhlig* in 1891:

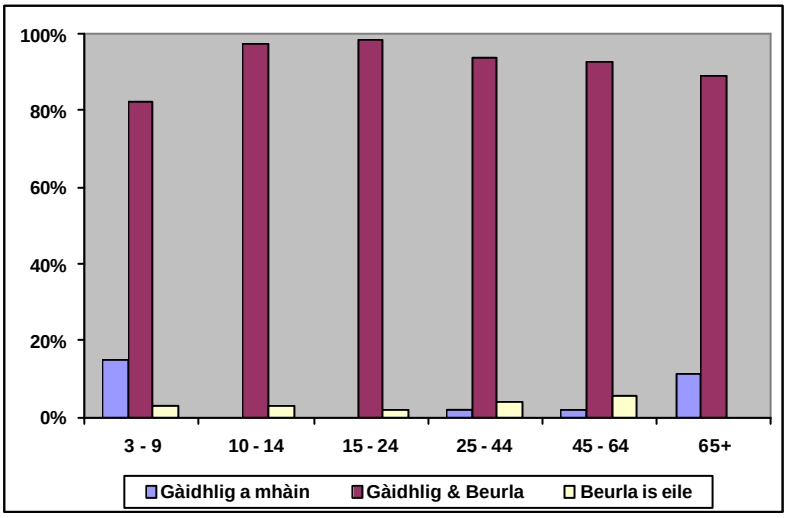
Apart from a few women of Lowland descent the overwhelming majority of usually resident persons was *Gàidhlig* speaking. Apart from the village of *Sròn an t-Sìthein* (Strontian) the language was spoken by virtually everyone in the area.

On the other hand just nine residents were reported as not speaking English. All monolingual Gàidhlig speakers lived in *Àth na h-Eilde* (Anaheilt) and they were either very young or belonged to the older generation.

Area description:

The district lies in the eastern part of the parish of *Àird nam Murchan* (Ardnamurchan) in the northernmost mainland portion of the old county of *Earra-Ghaidheal* (Argyll). It comprised the crofting township of *Àth na h-Eilde* (Anaheilt), the hamlet of *Sròn an t-Sìthein* (Strontian) and a handful of remote houses on the eastern shores of *Loch Suaineirt* (Loch Sunart).

The main occupation in the area was crofting besides some work as shepherds, gamekeepers or servants for the local estates.



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	Visi-tors etc.[3]	Total[4]	*Gàidhlig*	*Gàidhlig* & English	*Gàidhlig* speakers (%)
Age								
Total	**267**	**16**	**0**	**8**	**243**	**9**	**226**	**96.7 %**
3-4	**8**		**0**	**0**	**8**	**2**	**6**	**100 %**
5-9	**27**		**0**	**1**	**26**	**3**	**22**	**96.2 %**
10-14	**38**		**0**	**1**	**37**	**0**	**36**	**97.3 %**
15-24	**53**		**0**	**1**	**52**	**0**	**51**	**98.1 %**
25-44	**52**		**0**	**3**	**49**	**1**	**46**	**95.9 %**
45-64	**55**		**0**	**2**	**53**	**1**	**49**	**94.3 %**
65+	**18**		**0**	**0**	**18**	**2**	**16**	**100 %**
Gender								
Female	**137**	**10**	**0**	**4**	**123**	**4**	**111**	**93.5 %**
Male	**130**	**6**	**0**	**4**	**120**	**5**	**115**	**100 %**
Place of birth								
Born in parish	**176**	**15**	**0**	**3**	**158**	**8**	**149**	**99.4 %**
In neighbouring parish[1]	**34**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**32**	**0**	**32**	**100 %**
***Gaidhealtachd* elsewhere[2]**	**34**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**32**	**1**	**29**	**93.8 %**
Other places	**23**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**21**	**0**	**16**	**76.2 %**

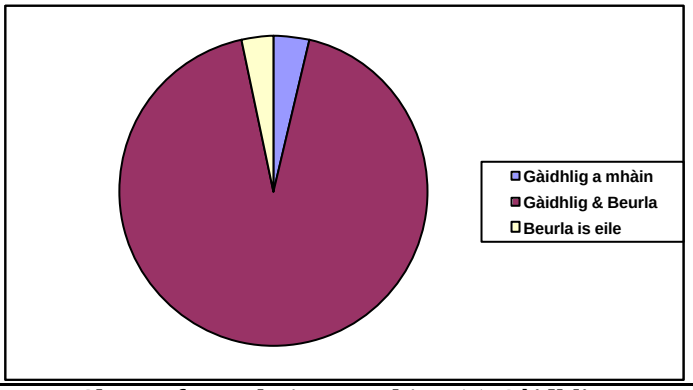
Notes:

[1] Parishes of Ardgour, Morvern (both Argyll); Arisaig & Moidart, Kilmallie (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* & 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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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	*Gàidhlig*	*Gàidhlig* & English	*Gàidhlig* speakers (%)
Sròn an t-Sìthein & Àth na h-Eilde	**47**	**243**	**9**	**226**	**96.7 %**
Individual communities					
Àth na h-Eilde **(Anaheilt)**	**26**	**127**	**9**	**118**	**100 %**
Druim na Tòrrain **(Drumnatorran)**	**1**	**7**	**0**	**6**	**85.7 %**
Sròn an t-Sìthein **(Strontian)**	**8**	**34**	**0**	**28**	**82.4 %**
An t-Achadh Liath & Càrnach **(Achaliadh & Carnoch)**	**2**	**18**	**0**	**18**	**100 %**
Lìdeasdal **(Liddesdale)**	**7**	**31**	**0**	**31**	**100 %**
Labhdal **(Laudale)**	**3**	**26**	**0**	**25**	**96.2 %**
Language of parents					
Both parents *Gàidhlig* speaking	**22**	**137**	**4**	**132**	**99.3 %**
Single parent *Gàidhlig* speaking	**10**	**45**	**4**	**41**	**100 %**
One parent *Gàidhlig* speaking	**4**	**29**	**0**	**24**	**82.8 %**
No *Gàidhlig* speaking parent	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-**
Households with no children (0-14)	**11**	**32**	**1**	**29**	**93.8 %**
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	**14**	**79**	**5**	**73**	**98.7 %**
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	**5**	**27**	**0**	**26**	**96.3 %**
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	**2**	**7**	**1**	**6**	**100 %**
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	**13**	**66**	**2**	**60**	**93.9 %**
Living on private means	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-**
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	**4**	**25**	**1**	**23**	**96.0 %**
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	**8**	**35**	**0**	**34**	**97.1 %**
Remaining occupations	**1**	**4**	**0**	**4**	**100 %**

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Additional individual profiles may be downloaded from a special page on the Linguae Celticae website: http://www.linguae-celticae.org/GLP_english.htm

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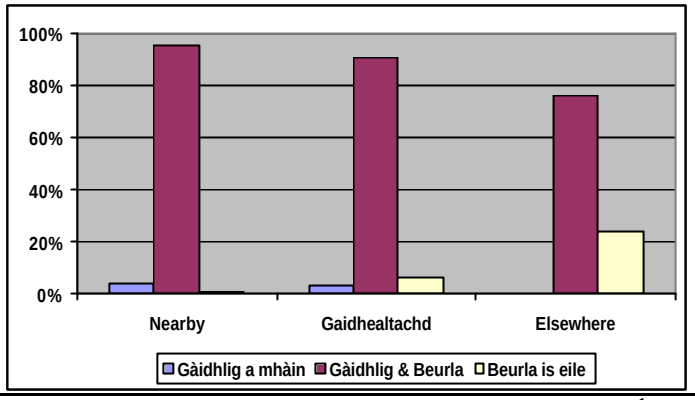
Place of birth and *Gàidhlig* speaking:
Most of the "English only" speakers were born outside the *Gaidhealtachd.*

Notes:
[1] Born either in Ardnamurchan or in the adjacent parishes of Ardgour, Morvern (both Argyll); Arisaig & Moidart, Kilmallie (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) nearby[1] (2) in remaining *Gaidhealtachd* [2], or (3) elsewhere

Remarks:

1. **Eight persons were returned as not speaking *Gàidhlig*. Six of those residents were counted in *Sròn an t-Sìthein* (Strontian). The wife and daughter of the general merchant and in addition the wife and daughter of the hotel keeper belonged to this group as well as the wives of a gamekeeper and a ploughman. All but the ploughman's wife were born in the Lowlands. The remaining "English only" returns came from the factor's wife (originally from Fife) at Laudale House and a 7 year old girl at *Druim na Tòrrain*.**

2. **Just nine residents were reported as not speaking English. All monolingual Gàidhlig speakers lived in *Àth na h-Eilde* (Anaheilt). They were either very young or belonged to the older generation.**

3. **In original census report terms the district had a population of 267 persons of all ages. 231 enumerated inhabitants spoke "Gaelic and English" and 11 were counted as monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers. This lead to an "official" share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 97.0 %. This was an under-estimate of 6.1 %!**