

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 056

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Area: *A'Chomraich (Applecross): Toghsaig, Cùil Duibh, Camas Tearach, Airigh Driseig, Na h-Uamhagan, An Àird Dhubh, An Àird Bhàn, Coille Gillean & Na h-Eileanan Cròlainneach*

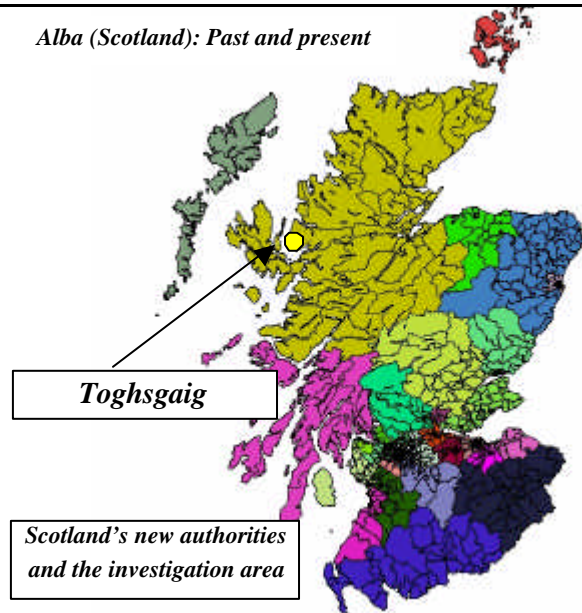
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms : Toscaig, Culduie, Camusterrach, Ardriseach, Uags, Ardhue, Ardbain, Coilgilin, Crowlin Islands)

Number of households: 74 **Population present at census night:** 288

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 99.3 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Applecross	Applecross	1	1 - 6
			2	1 - 8

Alba (Scotland): Past and present

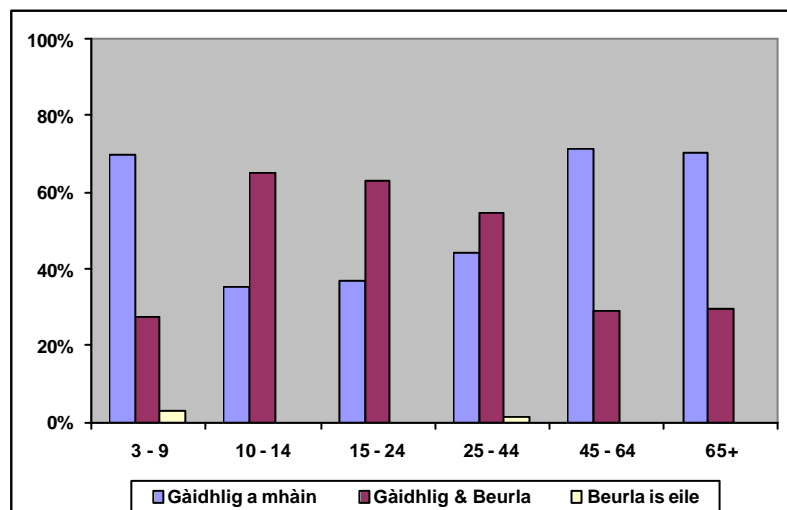


State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

Most residents still spoke exclusively Gàidhlig. Just two persons (in the minister's household) in *Camas Tearach* spoke only English. Most people older than 45 years and the very young did not speak English. Bilingual persons were only in the majority in the hamlets of *Camas Tearach* (Camusterrach) and *Coille Gillean* (Coillegillie). Men were more likely than women to speak also English.

Area description:

The communities in question are located on the southern coastal strip of the remote peninsula of *A'Chomraich* (Applecross) on the west-coast of *Ros is Cromba* (Ross & Cromarty). Included in this area are also *Na h-Eileanan Cròlainneach* (Crowlin Islands) which were still inhabited in 1891. Crofting and fishing were the main occupations in these tiny coastal settlements. There was no road connection with other parts of the mainland. Communication was solely made by boat or the occasional ship visiting these waters.



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	288	9	1	11	267	149	116	99.3 %
3-4	9	0	0	0	9	8	1	100 %
5-9	24	0	0	0	24	15	8	95.8 %
10-14	18	0	0	1	17	6	11	100 %
15-24	41	0	1	2	38	14	24	100 %
25-44	82	0	0	5	77	34	42	98.7 %
45-64	47	0	0	2	45	32	13	100 %
65+	58	0	0	1	57	57	17	100 %
Gender								
Female	159	2	1	7	149	92	56	99.3 %
Male	129	7	0	4	118	57	60	99.2 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	257	8	1	10	238	136	101	99.6 %
In neighbouring parish¹	12	1	0	0	11	6	5	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	16	0	0	1	15	6	9	100 %
Other places	3	0	0	0	3	1	1	66.7 %

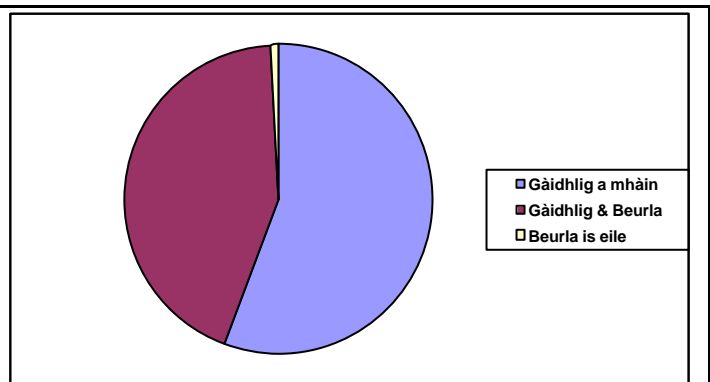
Notes:

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

²Other parishes in Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.

³People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers or other similar terms.

⁴Number 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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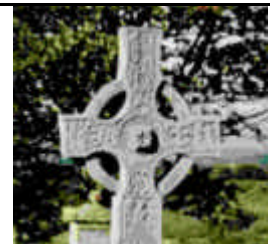
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Toghsaig & Cùil Duibhe</i>	74	267	149	116	99.3 %
Individual communities					
<i>Airigh Driseig</i> (Ardriseach)	1	3	2	1	100 %
<i>Na h-Uamhagan</i> (Uags)	3	13	8	5	100 %
<i>Toghsaig</i> (Toscaig)	25	82	44	38	100 %
<i>Camas Tearach</i> (Camusterrach)	11	46	21	23	95.7 %
<i>Cùil Duibh</i> (Culduie)	8	38	27	11	100 %
<i>An Àird Dhubh</i> (Ard-dhubh)	13	44	28	16	100 %
<i>An Àird Bhàn</i> (Ardban)	3	12	8	4	100 %
<i>Coille Gillean</i> (Coillegillie)	9	23	8	15	100 %
<i>Na h-Eileanan Cròlainneach</i> (Crowlin Islands)	1	6	3	3	100 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	18	94	51	43	100 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	8	27	21	6	100 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	1	4	0	2	50.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	47	142	77	65	100 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	50	190	122	68	100 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	1	3	2	1	100 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	2	6	0	4	66.7 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	5	27	3	24	100 %
Living on private means	6	14	8	6	100 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	8	23	11	12	100 %
Remaining occupations	2	4	3	1	100 %

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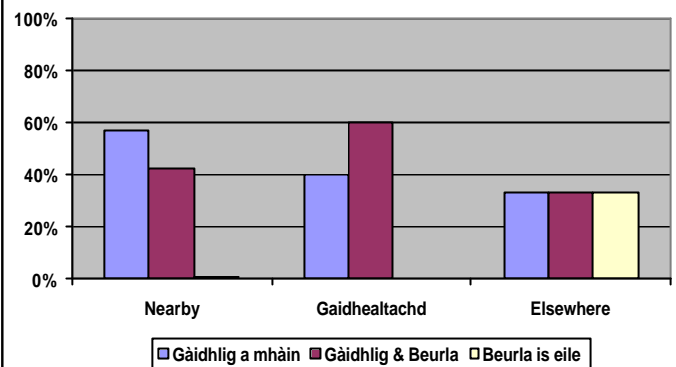
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Most locally born people still did not speak English. Those born in other parts of the *Gaidhealtachd* were in most cases able also to speak English.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Applecross or in the adjacent parishes of Gairloch and Lochcarron (all 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. Among the 267 residents just two persons did not have a “G&E” or “G” marked on their registration sheets. A minister’s wife (born in Roxburghshire) and her 7 year old boy had the distinction to speak only English in this *Gàidhlig* community.
2. In original census report terms the whole community in total had a population of 288 persons of all ages. 113 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 171 persons were reported as monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers. These figures lead to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 98.6 %. A comparison with the more realistic statistics of this fact-sheet reveals that this percentage was a very slight under-estimate of 0.7 % caused by the inclusion of under-three olds in the official population base.