

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 074

Page 1 of 4

Area: *Srath Uachail* (Strath Oykel): *Achadh Uraigil, Inbhir nan Allt, Tulach, Doire a'Chatha, Alltais, Alltais Beag, Achadh an t-Sabhail, Lianasaid Mhòr, Lianasaid Chruaidh & Inbhirean*

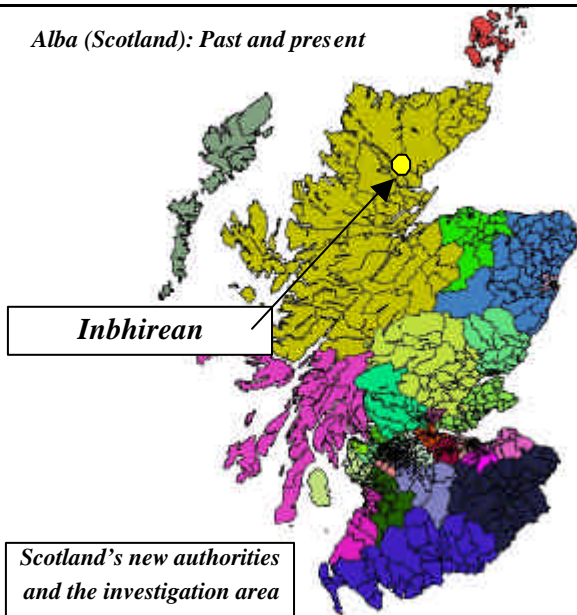
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Achirugle, Invernauld, Tulach, Durcha, Newlands, Netherton, Altass, Little Altass, Achintoul, Linsidemore, Linsidecroy & Inveran)

Number of households: 82 **Population present at census night:** 380

Share of resident population (aged three years +) speaking Gàidhlig: 62.5 %

| County | Civil parish | Registration district | Enumeration district number | Census form pages |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Sutherland | Creich | Rosehall | 1 | 1 - 19 |

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

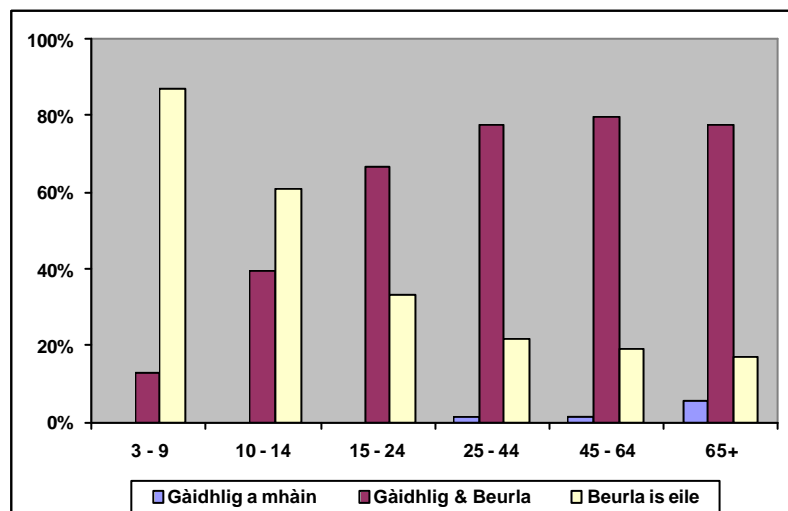
The language was still strong among the local population – apart from the very young. The overall percentage of Gàidhlig speakers was diluted by the presence of a significant number of Lowland farmers and servants in the district. They by definition were very reluctant to use the language of their neighbourhood. The few Gàidhlig monolingual persons were mostly elderly.

The language was especially strong in crofting communities like *Lianasaid Mhòr* (Linsidemore) where almost 90 % of residents still spoke the traditional language.

Area description:

The district covers a few settlements in the lower part of *Srath Uachail* (Strath Oykel) between *Inbhir nan Allt* (Invernauld) and *Inbhirean* (Inveran) in the county of *Cataibh* (Sutherland).

The scattered population was very heterogeneous with a significant minority of Lowland Scots and English people. A few crofters lived side by side with landed gentry on the large estates of the area.



Age profile: Share of population speaking (1) Gàidhlig, (2) Gàidhlig & English, or (3) no Gàidhlig at all

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 074

Page 2 of 4

Area: *Srath Uachail (Strath Oykel): Achadh Uraigil, Inbhir nan Allt, Tulach, Doire a'Chatha, Alltais, Alltais Beag, Achadh an t-Sabhail, Lianasaid Mhòr, Lianasaid Chruaidh & Inbhirean*

| | Population enumerated | | | | Usually resident population (3+) | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | Total | Aged 0-2 | Deaf & dumb | Visitors etc. ³ | Total ¹ | Gàidhlig | Gàidhlig & English | Gàidhlig speakers (%) |
| Age | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 380 | 15 | 0 | 16 | 349 | 5 | 213 | 62.5 % |
| 3-4 | 16 | | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 1 | 6.3 % |
| 5-9 | 46 | | 0 | 0 | 46 | 0 | 7 | 15.2 % |
| 10-14 | 34 | | 0 | 1 | 33 | 0 | 13 | 39.4 % |
| 15-24 | 56 | | 0 | 2 | 54 | 0 | 36 | 66.7 % |
| 25-44 | 87 | | 0 | 8 | 79 | 1 | 61 | 78.5 % |
| 45-64 | 70 | | 0 | 2 | 68 | 1 | 54 | 80.9 % |
| 65+ | 56 | | 0 | 3 | 53 | 3 | 41 | 83.0 % |
| Gender | | | | | | | | |
| Female | 201 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 185 | 4 | 114 | 63.8 % |
| Male | 179 | 7 | 0 | 8 | 164 | 1 | 99 | 61.0 % |
| Place of birth | | | | | | | | |
| Born in parish | 222 | 14 | 0 | 3 | 205 | 2 | 131 | 64.9 % |
| In neighbouring parish¹ | 26 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 2 | 22 | 96.0 % |
| Gaidhealtachd elsewhere² | 52 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 50 | 1 | 43 | 88.0 % |
| Other places | 80 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 69 | 0 | 17 | 24.6 % |

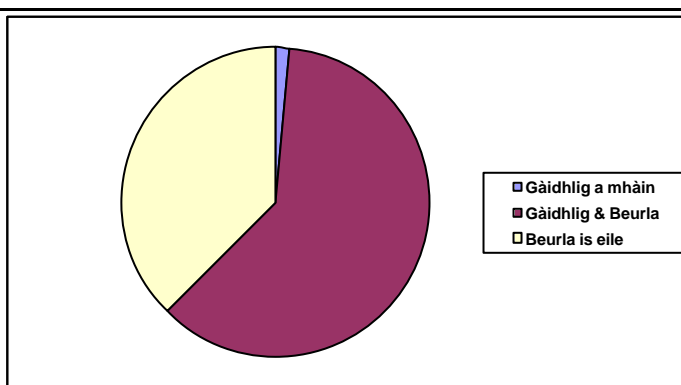
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Dornoch, Laig and Assynt (Sutherland), Kincardine and Edderton (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.

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

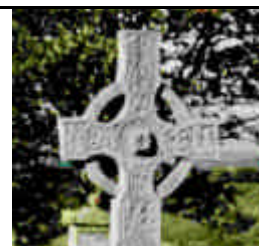
No. 074

Page 3 of 4

Area: *Srath Uachail (Strath Oykel): Achadh Uraigil, Inbhir nan Allt, Tulach, Doire a'Chatha, Alltais, Alltais Beag, Achadh an t-Sabhail, Lianasaid Mhòr, Lianasaid Chruaidh & Inbhirean*

| | House-holds | Usually resident population (3+) | | | |
|---|-------------|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Total | Gàidhlig | Gàidhlig & English | Gàidhlig speakers (%) |
| Alltais & Inbhirean | 82 | 349 | 5 | 213 | 62.5 % |
| Individual communities | | | | | |
| <i>Achadh Uraigil & Inbhir nan Allt</i> (Achuirghill & Invernauld) | 31 | 128 | 3 | 64 | 52.3 % |
| <i>Tulach & Alltais</i> (Tullich & Altass) | 33 | 132 | 2 | 81 | 62.9 % |
| <i>Lianasaid Mhòr</i> (Linsidemore) | 13 | 57 | 0 | 51 | 89.5 % |
| <i>Lianasaid Chruaidh & Inbhirean</i> (Linsidecroyc & Inveran) | 5 | 32 | 0 | 17 | 53.1 % |
| Language of parents | | | | | |
| Both parents Gàidhlig speaking | 16 | 92 | 0 | 59 | 64.1 % |
| Single parent Gàidhlig speaking | 8 | 41 | 0 | 29 | 70.7 % |
| One parent Gàidhlig speaking | 3 | 23 | 0 | 4 | 17.4 % |
| No Gàidhlig speaking parent | 9 | 46 | 0 | 3 | 6.5 % |
| Households with no children (0-14) | 46 | 147 | 5 | 118 | 83.7 % |
| Occupation of head of household | | | | | |
| Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc. | 53 | 244 | 2 | 145 | 60.2 % |
| Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar | 2 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 55.6 % |
| Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc. | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 100 % |
| Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc. | 7 | 38 | 0 | 22 | 57.9 % |
| Living on private means | 3 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 100 % |
| Manager, coachman, cook, etc. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc. | 15 | 49 | 2 | 33 | 71.4 % |
| Remaining occupations | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |

© Text and statistics: Copyright Kurt C. Duwe. All rights reserved except private and non-commercial use. Any other use has to be cleared by the author Kurt C. Duwe, Jägerstr. 120a, 21079 Hamburg, Germany (duwe@linguae-celticae.de) and it may also fall under restrictions of the Crown Copyright of census data. Statistics have been derived from 1891 census returns published by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS). The use of this material here is permitted under Licence No. C02W0003665. Crown Copyright of census data is acknowledged. The digital boundaries shown on the Scotland map are courtesy of Ordnance Survey as part of the Geography Products provided by GROS. Additional individual profiles may be downloaded from a special page on the Linguae Celticae website: http://www.linguae-celticae.org/GLP_english.htm



Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 074

Page 4 of 4

Area: *Srath Uachail (Strath Oykel): Achadh Uraigil, Inbhir nan Allt, Tulach, Doire a'Chatha, Alltais, Alltais Beag, Achadh an t-Sabhail, Lianasaid Mhòr, Lianasaid Chruaidh & Inbhirean*

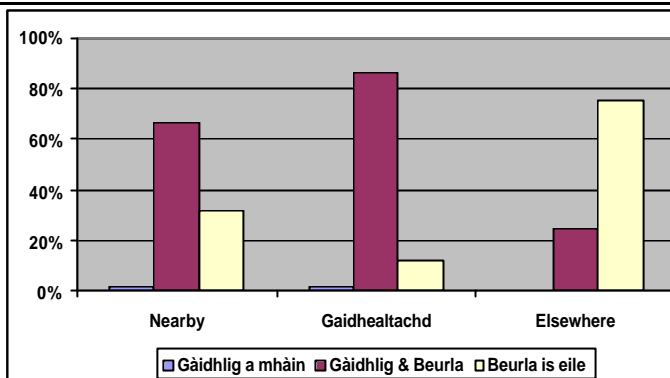
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

A significant majority of locally born residents spoke Gàidhlig and English. However, only a few of the significant number of “Lowlanders” could speak the local tongue.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Creich or in the parishes Dornoch, Lairg and Assynt (Sutherland), Kincardine and Edderton (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. Five persons in the district were enumerated as speaking Gàidhlig but not English. The youngest monolingual resident was a 32 year old servant. She was part of the household of a 80 years old crofter who also did not speak English. Both were born in the parish of *Loch Bhraoin* (Lochbroom) further west. The remaining three monolingual Gàidhlig speakers were all elderly women. One of them originated also from *Loch Bhraoin*, the two others had been born in the local parish.
2. In original census report terms the district had a population of 380 persons of all ages. 218 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and five persons spoke “Gaelic only”. This lead to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 58.7 %. This figure was an underestimate of 3.8 % compared with the more realistic figures taking into account only the usually resident population.