

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 096

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**Area:** *Srath Spè (Strathspey): Crombail, Àird Chrois, Croit nan Mullach, Am Baile Meadhonach, Fèith Buidhe, Tom Liath, Dail Riabhach, An t-Àilean Mòr & Leathandaigh*

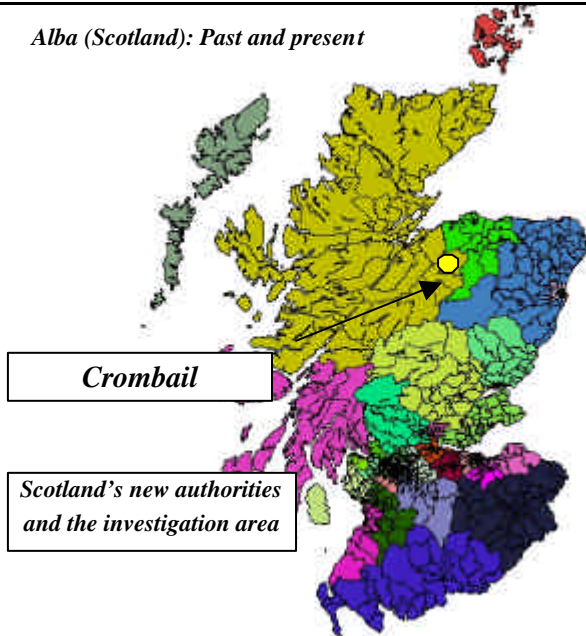
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Cromdale, Achroisk, Croftnamulloch, Balmenach, Faebuie, Tomlea, Lyne of Burnside, Cornahairigh, Ballinley, Coulinduim, Milltown, Dalriach, Pollowick, Dellachaple, Balnaboddach, Knocknakyle, Claggernish, Balachule, Rynaballoch, Turanbuie, Allanmore & Lethendry)

**Number of households:** 83      **Population present at census night:** 354

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 31.3 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Moray	Inverallan, Cromdale & Advie	Cromdale	1 2	1 - 8 1 - 9

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

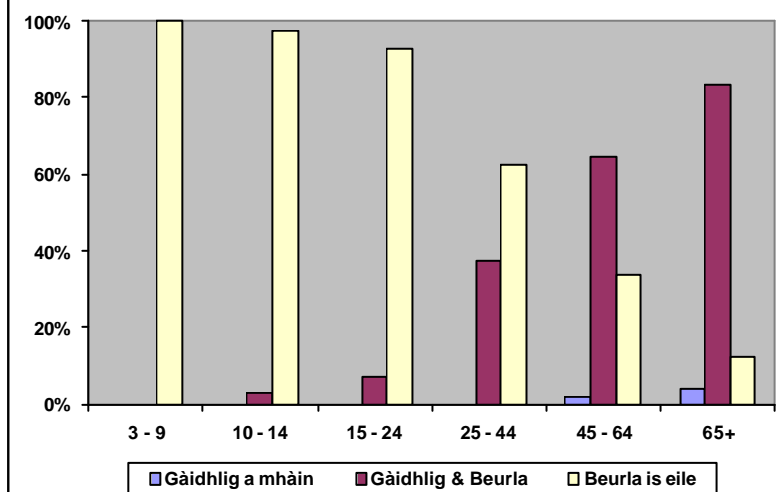
At this time the language had already seized being transmitted from generation to generation. Whereas almost everyone older than 64 of age spoke *Gàidhlig* (87.5 %) none of the children used the traditional tongue. Among the older people two monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers were enumerated in the census of 1891. Both women originated from the lands further west.

The language was strongest in the western part of the area around *Fèith Buidhe* (Faebuie) and *Am Baile Meadhonach* (Balmenach) with almost 40 % of the usually resident population still speaking the traditional language.

## Area description:

The district under consideration lies on the western margins of the old county of *Moireabh* (Moray). The settlements enumerated in 1891 were situated on the south bank of *Uisge Spè* (River Spey) in the ancient *Baranachd Chrombail* (Barony of Cromdale).

Essentially this was farming countryside and the inhabitants lived in a scattered patchwork of tiny groups of houses and farms on comparatively fertile soils.



Age profile: Share of population speaking (1) *Gàidhlig*, (2) *Gàidhlig & Beurla*, or (3) *Beurla is eile*

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	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. <sup>3</sup>	Total <sup>1</sup>	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>31.3 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>47</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>39</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.7 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>45</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7.3 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>95</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>37.5 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>59</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>66.1 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>87.5 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32.5 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>33.0 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>25.1 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>48.8 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>85.0 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19.6 %</b>

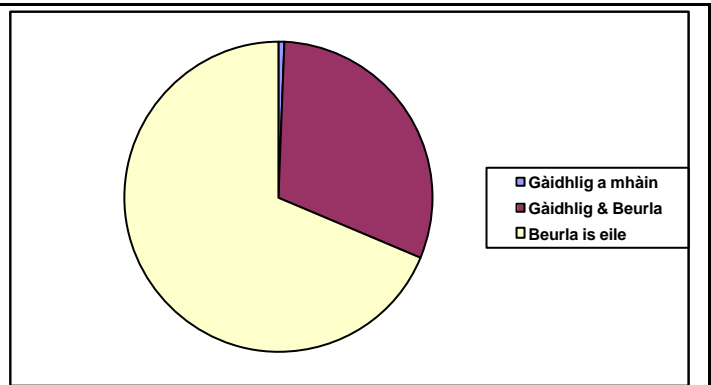
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Knockando, Dyke, Edinkillie (all Moray); Ardclach (Nairn), Kirkmichael (Banff); Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie (all Inverness).

<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.

<sup>4</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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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Baranachd Chrombail</i>	83	310	2	96	31.3 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Crombail &amp; Achadh Chrois</i> (Cromdale & Achroisk)	9	36	0	14	38.9 %
<i>Fèith Buidhe &amp; Am Baile Meadhonach</i> (Faebuie & Balmenach)	34	112	1	43	39.3 %
<i>Leathandaigh &amp; An t-Àilean Mòr</i> (Lethendry & Allanmore)	40	162	1	38	24.1 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	6	29	0	15	51.7 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	7	29	0	12	41.4 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	22	106	0	25	23.8 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	8	38	0	0	0.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	40	109	2	43	41.3 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	30	129	0	45	34.9 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	5	17	1	7	47.1 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	5	17	0	2	11.8 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	11	47	0	9	19.1 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	32	100	1	32	33.0 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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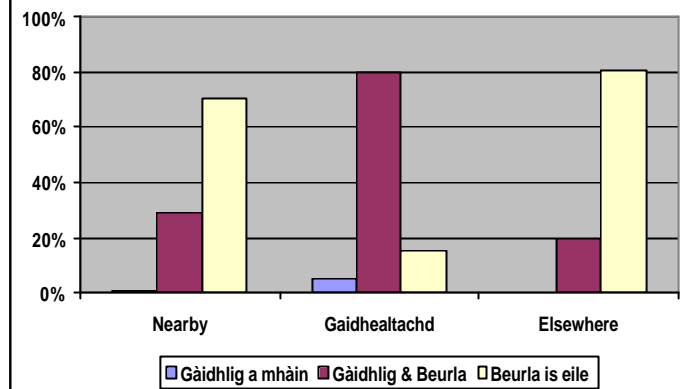
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

*Gàidhlig* was spoken by just a third of all locally born people. Almost everyone from the wider *Gaidhealtachd* spoke the language. Even some 20% of people born further away spoke the traditional tongue.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> 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).

<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. There were two monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers registered in the area in 1891. A 60 year old shepherd's wife and a 77 year old weaver's wife did not speak English. Both were born in *Siorrachd Inbhirnis* (Inverness-shire).
2. In original census report terms the district had a population of 354 persons of all ages. 100 enumerated inhabitants spoke "Gaelic and English" and two persons spoke "Gaelic only". The "official" share of *Gàidhlig* speakers accordingly was 28.8 %. This was a small underestimate of 2.5 % compared with the realistic figures taking into account only the usually resident population.