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

No. 105

Area: ***Gleann Eilg* (Glenelg): *Baile a'Mhuilinn, Sgalasaig, Iomair a'Ghreadain, An Glìb, Eilean Riabhach, Còrr Àirigh, Baile Bhràid, Suardalan, Bealach Easan, Am Maol, Baile Àirigh, Sanndaig, Rarsaigh, An Camas Bàn, Àrnasdal, Creanach, Còrran, An Caolas Mòr & Ceann Loch Shubhairne***

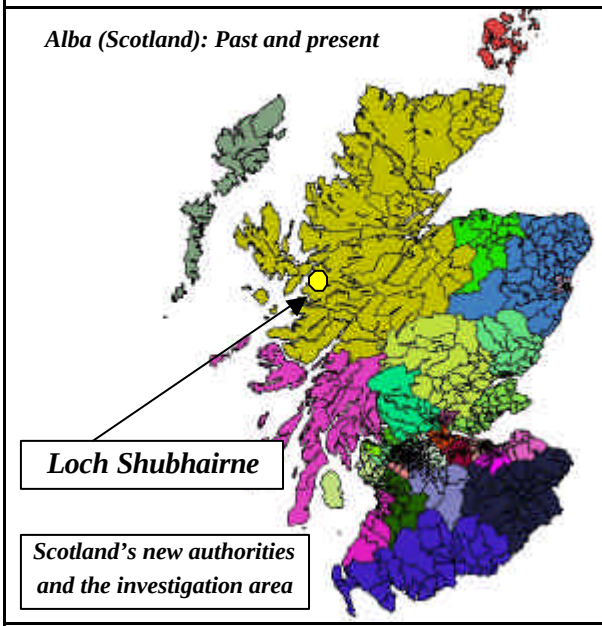
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Milton, Scallisaig House, Imergraden, Glebe, Eilanreach House, Eilanreach, Corrary House, Garasie, Balvraid, Swordlaw, Ballachasan, Myle, Biolary, Sandaig, Rassay, Camusbane, Arnisdale, Creanach, Corran, Caolis Mor & Lochornhead)

Number of households: 83 Population present at census night: 387

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking *Gàidhlig*: 98.0 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Inverness	**Glenelg**	Glenelg	2 3	1 – 7 1 - 10

Alba (Scotland): Past and present

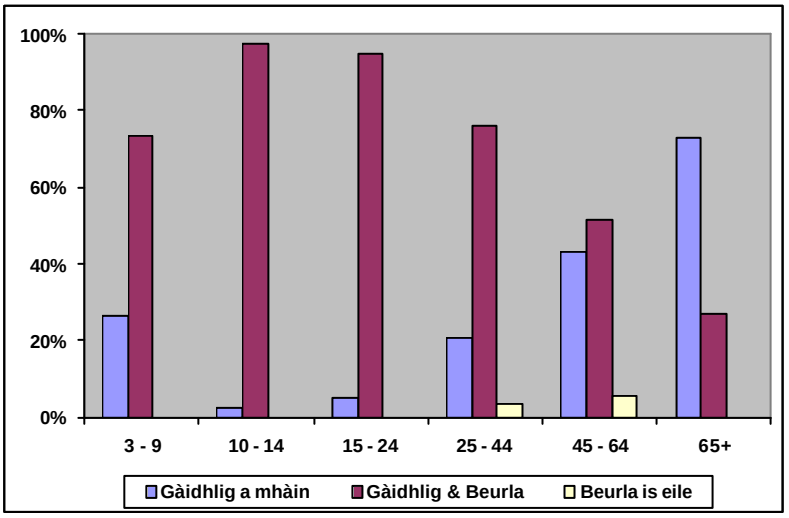


State of *Gàidhlig* in 1891:
The usually resident population was almost exclusively *Gàidhlig* speaking. Only seven persons from outside the *Gaidhealtachd* did speak English only. All children spoke the traditional tongue. Most monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers (who made up more than a quarter of all speakers) were already older than 45 years, however.

All settlements (besides *Àrnasdal*) were overwhelmingly *Gàidhlig* speaking with the crofting township of *An Camas Bàn* (Cambusbane) boasting the biggest proportion of monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers.

Area description:
The small communities under consideration are situated in the remote *Gleann Eilg* (Glenelg) district on the west coast of the old county of *Inbhirnis* (Inverness). The farms and crofting hamlets were found in the narrow valleys *Gleann Mòr* (Glen More) and *Gleann Beag* (Glen Beg) and on the northern shores of *Loch Shubhairne* (Loch Hourn).

Almost all inhabitants were either reliant on crofting activities or worked for their landlords as servants or shepherds.



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	**387**	**25**	**0**	**19**	**343**	**93**	**243**	**98.0 %**
3-4	**10**		**0**	**0**	**10**	**4**	**6**	**100 %**
5-9	**35**		**0**	**0**	**35**	**8**	**27**	**100 %**
10-14	**41**		**0**	**1**	**40**	**1**	**39**	**100 %**
15-24	**61**		**0**	**4**	**57**	**3**	**54**	**100 %**
25-44	**103**		**0**	**11**	**92**	**19**	**70**	**96.7 %**
45-64	**73**		**0**	**1**	**72**	**31**	**37**	**94.4 %**
65+	**39**		**0**	**2**	**37**	**27**	**10**	**100 %**
Gender								
Female	**191**	**14**	**0**	**3**	**174**	**55**	**116**	**98.3 %**
Male	**196**	**11**	**0**	**16**	**169**	**38**	**127**	**97.6 %**
Place of birth								
Born in parish	**265**	**24**	**0**	**5**	**236**	**78**	**158**	**100 %**
In neighbouring parish[1]	**17**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**15**	**1**	**14**	**100 %**
***Gaidhealtachd* elsewhere[2]**	**83**	**1**	**0**	**11**	**71**	**14**	**57**	**100 %**
Other places	**22**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**21**	**0**	**14**	**66.7 %**

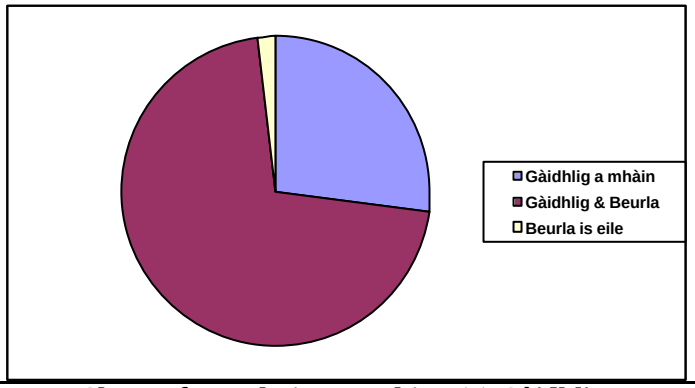
Notes:

[1]Parishes of Glenshiel (Ross & Cromarty) or Arisaig & Moidart or Kilmonivaig (both Inverness-shire).

[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 (%)
Gleann Mòr & Loch Shubhairne	**83**	**343**	**93**	**243**	**98.0 %**
Individual communities					
Sgalasaig & Iomair a`Ghreadain **(Scallasaig & Imergraden)**	**10**	**44**	**12**	**32**	**100 %**
Eilean Riabhach & Baile Bhràid **(Eileanreich & Balvraid)**	**10**	**51**	**8**	**40**	**94.1 %**
Bealach Easan & Am Maol **(Ballachasan & Myle)**	**6**	**37**	**6**	**30**	**97.3 %**
Sanndaig & Rarsaigh **(Sandaig & Rarsay)**	**2**	**11**	**2**	**9**	**100 %**
An Camas Bàn **(Cambusbane)**	**27**	**98**	**42**	**56**	**100 %**
Àrnasdal **(Arnisdale)**	**3**	**6**	**1**	**2**	**50.0 %**
Còrran & Creanach **(Corran & Creanach)**	**19**	**68**	**19**	**49**	**100 %**
Ceann Loch Shubhairne & An Caolas Mòr **(Kinlochhourn & Caolis Mor)**	**6**	**28**	**3**	**25**	**100 %**
Language of parents					
Both parents *Gàidhlig* speaking	**21**	**127**	**23**	**103**	**99.2 %**
Single parent *Gàidhlig* speaking	**18**	**72**	**19**	**53**	**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)	**43**	**140**	**51**	**58**	**97.1 %**
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	**41**	**161**	**57**	**101**	**98.1 %**
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	**19**	**106**	**17**	**86**	**97.2 %**
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	**3**	**10**	**3**	**6**	**90.0 %**
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	**8**	**34**	**1**	**33**	**100 %**
Living on private means	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-**
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-**
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	**12**	**32**	**15**	**17**	**100 %**
Remaining occupations	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-**

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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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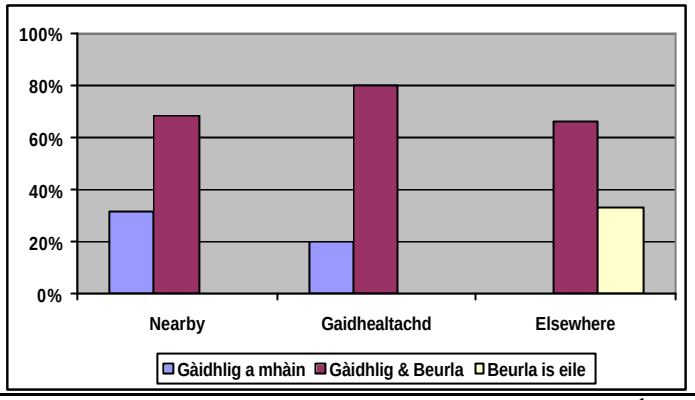
Place of birth and *Gàidhlig* speaking:
The few non-*Gàidhlig* speakers originated exclusively from outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. The monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers were more frequently found among those born nearby than among residents born further away in the wider *Gaidhealtachd.*

Notes:
[1] Born either in Glenelg or in the adjacent parishes of Glenshiel (Ross & Cromarty) or Arisaig & Moidart and Kilmonivaig (both Inverness-shire).
[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. **There were seven persons in the usually resident population who did not have a "G&E" or "G" marked on their registration sheet. All were born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. In *Àrnasdal* (Arnisdale) the local school teacher and a shepherd's couple (all from Dumfries-shire) did not speak the traditional tongue. At Eileanreach House the farmer himself (born in Erskine in Renfrewshire), a valet from Middlesex and an "engineer on yacht" from Ireland) were counted as non-*Gàidhlig* speakers. Last but not least a 64 year old shepherd's mother at *Baile Àirigh* (Beolary) did not speak *Gàidhlig*: Her birthplace was Kirkmichael in Ayrshire.**

2. **In original census report terms the whole community in total had a population of 387 persons of all ages. 267 enumerated inhabitants spoke "Gaelic and English" and 100 persons were reported as monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers. These figures led to an "official" share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 94.8 %. A comparison with the more realistic statistics of this fact-sheet reveals that this percentage was a slight under-estimate of 3.2 % caused by the inclusion of under-three olds and visitors in the official population base.**