

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: *An Ros Meadhonach (Mid Ross): Achadh nan Clèireach, Innis Beithe, An tAllt Giuthais, Glascarnach, Coire Mùillidh, An Goirtean, A'Ghairbhe, Cill Fhinn & An Cnoc Glas*

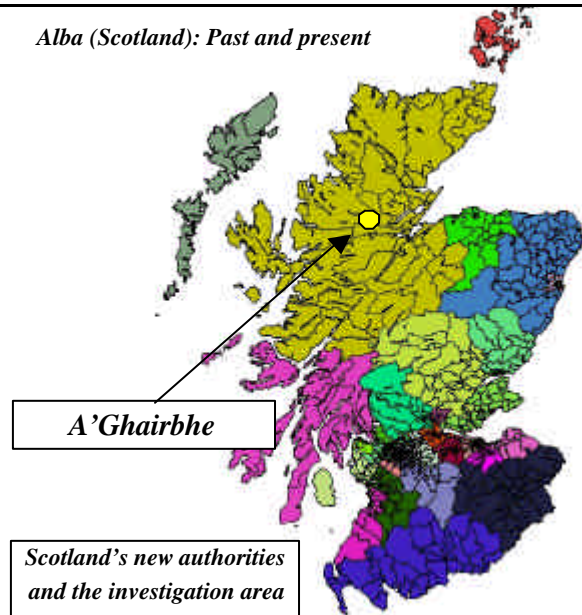
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Achnaclerach, Inchbae, Blackbridge, Kirkin, Altguish, Glascarnoch, Strathdirie, Corriemoillie, Gorstan, Garve, Killin & Knockglass)

Number of households: 71 **Population present at census night:** 283

Share of resident population (aged three years +) speaking Gàidhlig: 84.3 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Contin	Kinlochluichart	1	1 - 2
			2	1 - 14

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

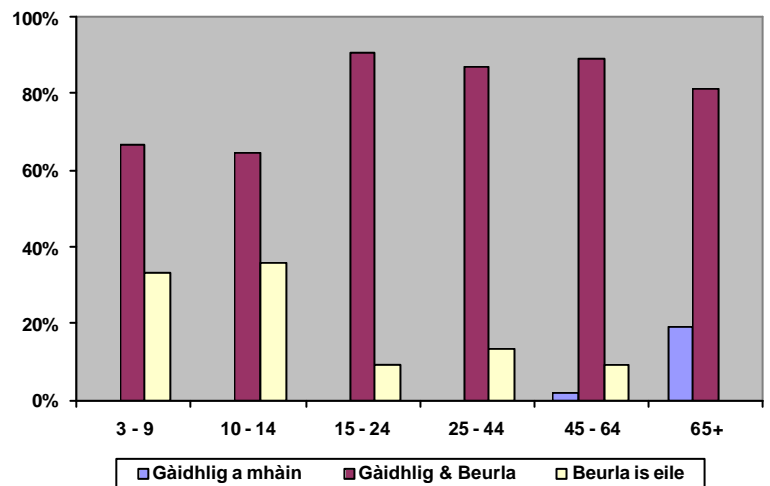
The language was still overwhelmingly spoken by the usually resident population. Only among the very young "English only" had made any headway in the area in 1891. Half of the "no Gaelic" returns came from residents who were born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. All Gàidhlig monolingual persons on the other hand were born nearby and they belonged to the older generation.

The traditional language was strongest in the tiny communities of *Coire Mùillidh* (Corriemoillie) and *Bràigh Call & Ceann Locha* (Hazelbrae & Lochend) where everybody spoke Gàidhlig at the time.

Area description:

The district described is situated right in the centre of the ancient county of *Ros & Cromba* (Ross & Cromarty) on the main road connection to Ulapul (Ullapool). It comprises a small number of settlements with *An Goirtean* (Gorstan) and *A'Ghairbhe* (Garve) being by far the most important ones.

Most residents were working either for the local estates or the railway company – the number of locally born crofters was relatively small.



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	283	10	0	18	255	6	209	84.3 %
3-4	6		0	0	6	0	5	83.3 %
5-9	30		0	0	30	0	19	63.3 %
10-14	28		0	0	28	0	18	64.3 %
15-24	49		0	6	43	0	39	90.7 %
25-44	74		0	7	67	0	58	86.6 %
45-64	60		0	5	55	1	49	90.9 %
65+	26		0	0	26	5	21	100 %
Gender								
Female	133	5	0	2	126	5	104	86.5 %
Male	150	5	0	16	129	1	105	82.2 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	114	10	0	0	104	3	91	90.4 %
In neighbouring parish	80	0	0	15	65	3	58	93.8 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	47	0	0	1	46	0	39	84.8 %
Other places	42	0	0	2	40	0	21	52.5 %

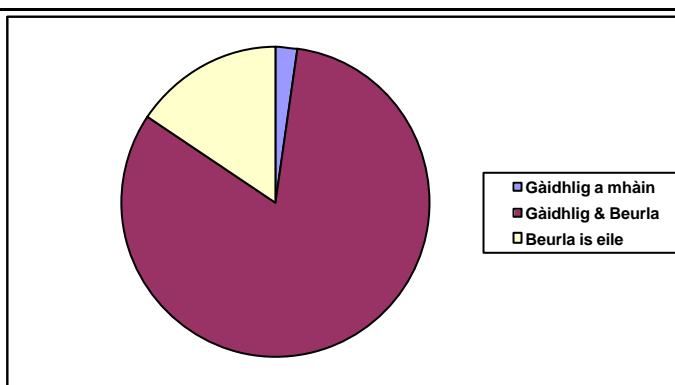
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Lochbroom, Lochcarron, Gairloch, Kincardine, Urray and Fodderty (all 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.

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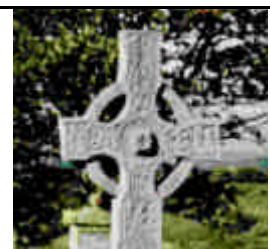
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>An t-Allt Giuthais & A'Ghairbhe</i>	71	255	6	209	84.3 %
Individual communities					
<i>Innis Beithe & Drochaid Dubh</i> (Inchbae & Blackbridge)	4	10	0	5	50.0 %
<i>An t-Allt Giuthais & Glascarnach</i> (Aultguish & Glascarnoch)	4	18	0	16	88.9 %
<i>Coire Mùillidh</i> (Corriemoillie)	4	18	1	17	100 %
<i>An Goirtean</i> (Gorstan)	14	37	1	31	86.5 %
<i>A'Ghairbhe</i> (Garve)	37	126	4	94	77.8 %
<i>Bràigh Call & Ceann Locha</i> (Hazel Brae & Lochend)	8	46	0	46	100 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	15	85	0	85	100 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	4	26	1	23	92.3 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	6	0	1	16.7 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	5	29	0	3	10.3 %
Households with no children (0-14)	46	109	5	97	93.6 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	12	50	1	46	94.0 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	9	31	1	24	80.6 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	7	42	0	31	73.8 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	11	45	0	35	77.8 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	8	23	0	17	73.9 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	24	64	4	56	93.8 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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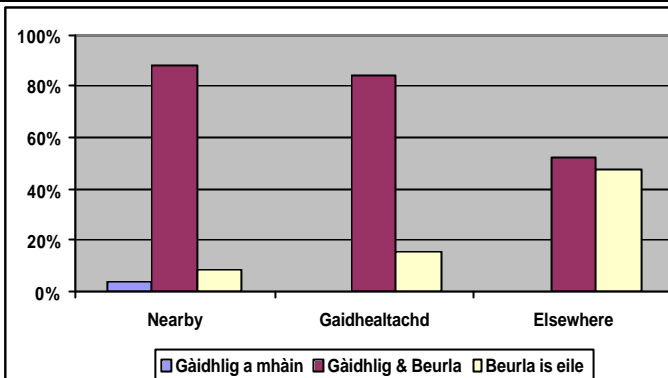
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Almost half of all “English only” speakers found in the district were born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. All Gàidhlig monolingual persons on the other hand were born nearby.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Contin or in the parishes of Lochbroom, Lochcarron, Gairloch, Kincardine, Urray and Fodderty (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. Six usually resident persons in the district were enumerated as speaking *Gàidhlig* but not English: Three annuitants (58, 74 and 86 years old respectively), a cottar aged 65, a 70 year old shepherd and a 76 year old domestic servant.
2. In original census report terms the district had a population of 283 persons of all ages. 232 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and six persons spoke “Gaelic only”. This led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 84.1 %. This percentage was almost exactly the same as the normally more realistic figure taking into account only the usually resident population.