

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 138

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Area: *Ros an Ear (Easter Ross): Baile a'Chnuic*

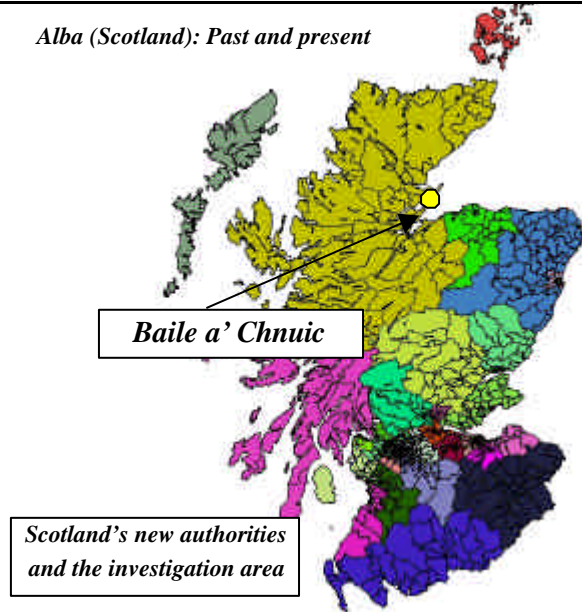
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Hilton of Cadboll - Lady Street, Hill Place, Bank Street, Shore Street, Mid Street, King Street)

Number of households: 93 **Population present at census night:** 343

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 97.5 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Fearn	Fearn	5	1 – 14

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

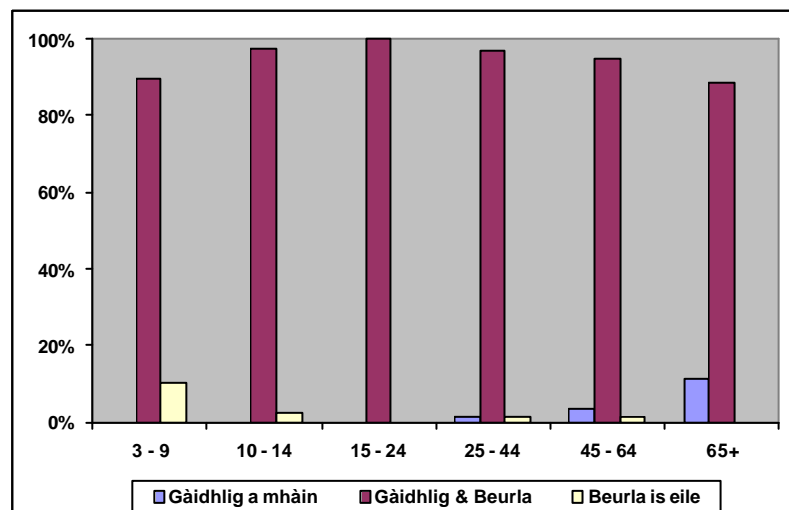
The usually resident population of the fishing village of *Baile a'Chnuic* (Hilton of Cadboll) was overwhelmingly Gàidhlig-speaking. The few inhabitants “with no Gaelic” were found mostly at very young age in a handful of households.

A small number of older people did not even speak English, some of them were born in the equally Gàidhlig-speaking villages of *Eurabol* (Embo) and *Brùra* (Brora) further north.

Area description:

The small fishing village of *Baile a'Chnuic* (Hilton of Cadboll) lies on the east coast of the county of *Ros & Cromba* (Ross & Cromarty). It is part of a line of hamlets which occupy the North Sea coast of the fertile parish of *Sgìre na Manachainn* (Fearn).

The village was home to a close-knit community where almost everyone was occupied with fishing or at least with related work like boat-building.



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 ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	343	19	0	7	317	7	302	97.5 %
3-4	13		0	0	13	0	11	84.6 %
5-9	36		0	0	36	0	33	91.7 %
10-14	40		0	0	40	0	39	97.5 %
15-24	54		0	1	53	0	53	100 %
25-44	70		0	1	69	1	67	98.6 %
45-64	82		0	2	80	3	76	98.8 %
65+	29		0	3	26	3	23	100 %
Gender								
Female	180	8	0	7	165	6	157	98.8 %
Male	163	11	0	0	152	1	145	96.1 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	308	17	0	4	287	3	277	97.6 %
In neighbouring parish¹	15	2	0	0	13	0	13	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	16	0	0	1	15	4	11	100 %
Other places	4	0	0	2	2	0	1	50.0 %

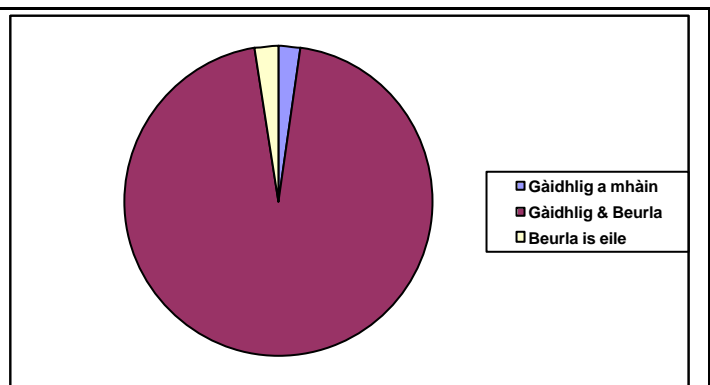
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Nigg, Tarbat, Tain and Logie Easter (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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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Baile a'Chnuic</i>	93	317	7	302	97.5 %
Individual communities					
<i>Sràid Bàn-Tighearna</i> (Lady Street)	38	121	3	117	99.2 %
<i>Ceàrnan. Cnuic & Sràid Bruaich</i> (Hill Place & Bank Street)	10	23	3	20	100 %
<i>Sràid Cladaich</i> (Shore Street)	17	51	0	45	88.2 %
<i>An t-Sràid Mheadhonach</i> (Mid Street)	7	34	1	33	100 %
<i>Sràid Rìgh</i> (King Street)	21	88	0	87	98.9 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	30	164	0	159	97.0 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	15	55	0	54	98.2 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	1	5	0	3	60.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	47	93	7	86	100 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	49	220	3	213	98.2 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	0	0	0	0	-
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	3	0	3	100 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	11	31	0	27	87.1 %
Living on private means	18	27	2	25	100 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	1	3	0	3	100 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	13	33	2	31	100 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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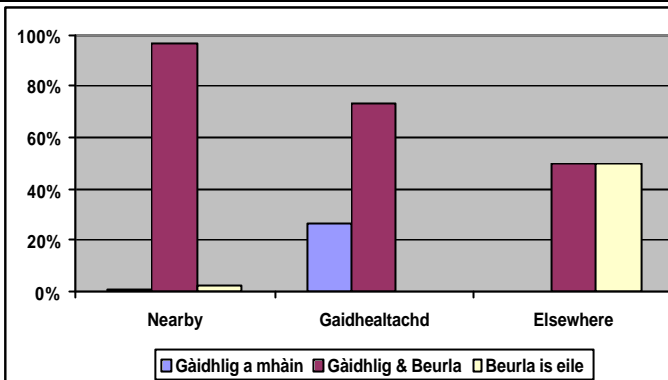
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Almost all persons born with the *Gàidhealtachd* spoke the traditional language. English-only speakers were mainly confined to a small group of children and persons from the Lowlands.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Fearn or in the adjacent parishes of Tarbat, Nigg, Tain and Logie Easter (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. Only eight usually resident persons did not have a "G" or "G&E" mark on their registration sheets. The largest group of these "non-Gaelic" speakers was made up of six children aged between 3 and 12 living in four different households. In addition a fisherman (originally from Nairnshire) and his wife did not speak *Gàidhlig* although their children were reported as bilingual.
2. Seven persons did not speak English. The youngest monolingual person was 46 years old – she was a fisherman's wife and was born in *Brùra* (Brora). Two other monolingual persons came also from a nearby fishing community, i.e. *Eurabol* (Embo). Another "Gaelic only" return was reported also with a birthplace in the parish of *Dòrnach* (Dornoch). Many of these older people were "living on parochial relief" according to the census records.
3. Official census figures reported 305 bilingual inhabitants and 10 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 343 persons (91.8 %). The usually resident population on the other hand consisted of 309 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (97.5 %) including 7 persons "with no Gaelic". The main cause for this difference is the use of the total population as a base for deriving percentages in the official census definition. However, children younger than 3 years of age were not taken into account in the enumeration of *Gàidhlig* speakers.