

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 140

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**Area: *Strath Locha (Straloch): An t-Aonadh Dubh, Ceann Drogain, Gleann Feàrnaid, Tairbhidh, An Dail Riabhach, Gleann Briathrachain, Inbhir Chrosgaidh & Strath Locha***

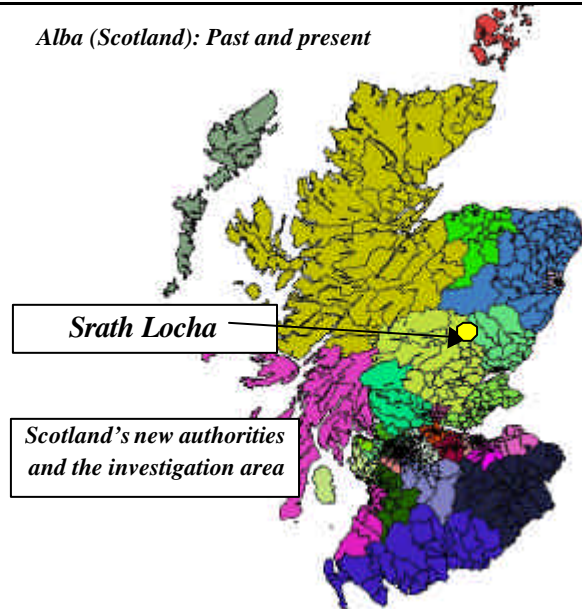
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Kindrogan, Tullochcurran, Dalreoch, Dalnagairn, Balvarran, Inverchroskie, Tonloid, Badvo, Dalnagairn, Stronhavia, Clunskea, Tarvie, Tomchulan, Ceannaghline, Davan, Balnald, Daldhu, Craigloisk, Crannoch, Dalcarnoch, Glenfernate, Cotterton, Tigh an Lochan, Dirnanean, Woodend, Braigharie, Enochdhu & Straloch)

**Number of households: 71      Population present at census night: 276**

**Share of resident population (aged 3 years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 57.7 %**

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Perthshire	Kirkmichael	Kirkmichael	1	1
			2	5 – 7 (part)
	Moulin	Strathloch	1	1 – 4
			2	1 – 5

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

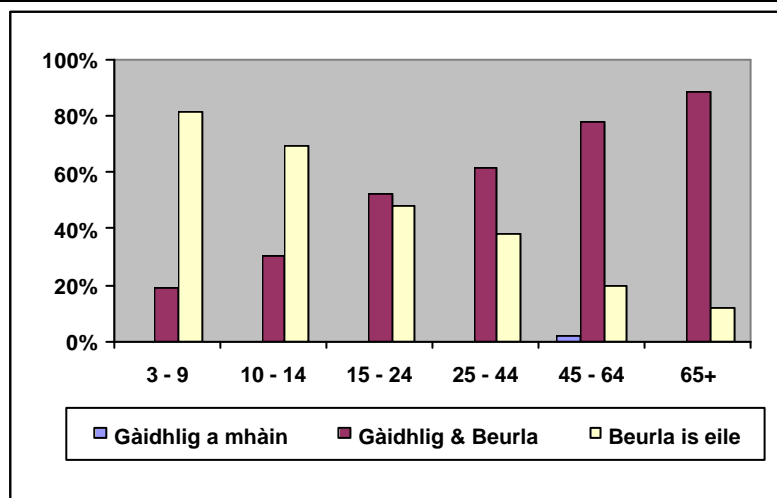
The communities in general had still a significant proportion of Gàidhlig-speakers among the usually resident population. The language group was of course stronger represented among older generations but there were still children being raised in a Gàidhlig environment.

English monoglots were most likely to be found among professions like teachers or blacksmiths. These were of course mainly born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. Strongest Gàidhlig community was *An Dail Riabhach* (Dalreoch) with a percentage of over 80 % of speakers of the language.

## Area description:

This fact-sheet is concerned with a remote part of *Siorrachd Pheairt* (Perthshire); the upper *Strath Ardail* (Strathardle) and the glens of *Gleann Briathrachain* (Glen Brearachan) and *Gleann Feàrnaid* (Glen Fernate).

Main “village” in this thinly populated upland district is *An t-Aonach Dubh* (Enochdhu) just a few miles north of the small town of *Cille Mhicheil* (Kirkmichael).



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

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Area: *Srath Locha (Straloch): An t-Aonadh Dubh, Ceann Drogain, Gleann Feàrnaid, Tairbhidh, An Dail Riabhach, Gleann Briathrachain, Inbhir Chrosgaidh & Srath Locha*

	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. <sup>4</sup>	Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>57.7 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27.3 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>30.4 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>50</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>52.2 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>77</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>61.6 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>51</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>80.4 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>27</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>88.5 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>53.6 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>62.0 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>128</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>70.7 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>60.9 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>93.5 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5.7 %</b>

## Notes:

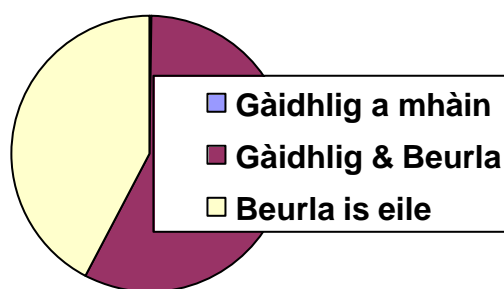
<sup>1</sup> Civil parishes of Kirkmichael and Moulin (both Perthshire).

<sup>2</sup> Parishes of Bendochy, Alyth, Blairgowrie (all Perth), Crathie & Braemar (Aberdeen) or Glenisla (Angus).

<sup>3</sup> Other parishes in Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.

<sup>4</sup> People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers or other similar terms. This column includes also railway workers living in temporary huts.

<sup>5</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 (%)
<b>Strath Locha</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>57.7 %</b>
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>An Dail Riabhach</i> (Dalreoch)	5	22	0	19	86.4 %
<i>Baile a'Mhuilinn &amp; Inbhir Chrosgaidh</i> (Milton & Inverchroskie)	14	42	0	21	50.0 %
<i>Tairbhidh &amp; Gleann Feàrnaid</i> (Tarvie & Glenferate)	7	35	0	23	65.7 %
<i>Strath Locha &amp; An t-Aonach Dubh</i> (Straloch & Enochdhu)	27	88	1	58	67.0 %
<i>Bràigh Àiridh</i> (Braigharie)	7	15	0	2	13.3 %
<i>Ceann Drogain</i> (Kindrogan)	11	44	0	18	40.9 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
<b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>67.3 %</b>
<b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>70.6 %</b>
<b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>28.9 %</b>
<b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>73.7 %</b>
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
<b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>68.4 %</b>
<b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>65.5 %</b>
<b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>35.9 %</b>
<b>Living on private means</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>64.7 %</b>
<b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>60.0 %</b>
<b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>55.7 %</b>
<b>Remaining occupations</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>

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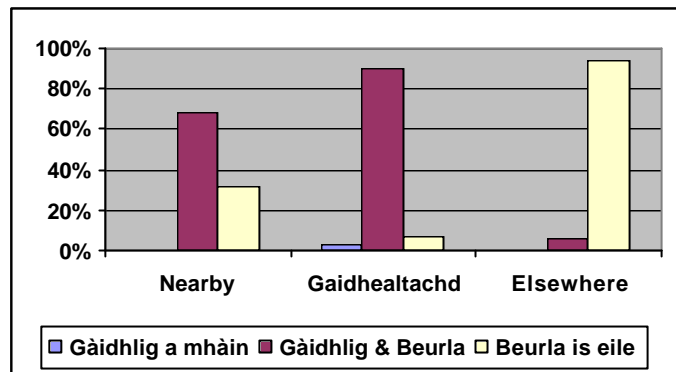
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Roughly two thirds of people born nearby spoke Gàidhlig. On the other hand almost no-one with a Lowland or English birthplace spoke the traditional language.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Kirkmichael (Perthshire) or in the parishes of Moulin, Bendochy, Alyth, Blairgowrie (all Perthshire), Crathie & Braemar (Aberdeen) or Glenisla (Angus).

<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. The single Gàidhlig monoglot speaker was a retired servant in the village of *An t-Aonach Dubh* (Enochdhu). The 64 year old woman was born on the Hebridean island of *Barraidh* (Barra),
2. In original census report terms the district had a population of 276 persons of all ages. 143 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and one person “only Gaelic”. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 52.2 %. This figure was a slight under-estimate compared with the 57.7 % of the figures of the usually resident population.