

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 141

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Area: *Cataibh an Ear (East Sutherland): Eurabol*

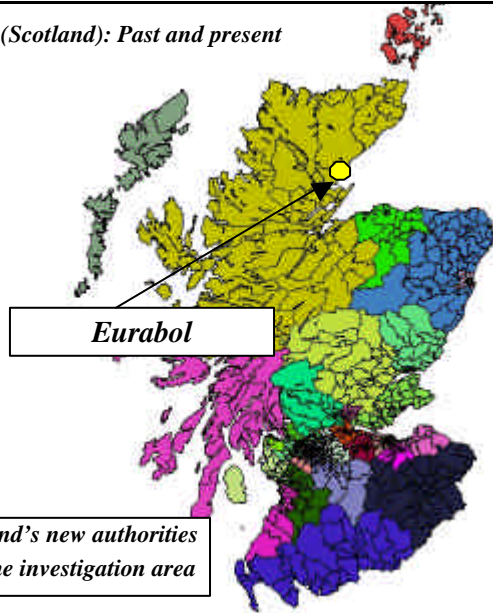
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms : Embo, School House, Curing Yards)

Number of households: **92** Population present at census night: **472**

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: **96.2 %**

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Sutherland	Dornoch	Dornoch	2	1 – 21 (part)

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

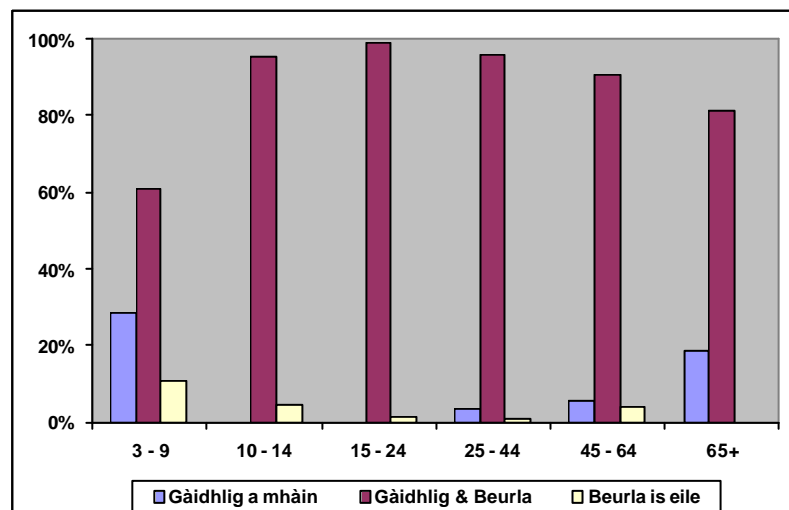
The fishing village of *Eurabol* (Embo) was a thriving Gàidhlig speaking community on the east coast of *Cataibh* (Sutherland). There were even a few inhabitants speaking only Gàidhlig especially among pre-school children. Almost every person born locally or in the wider *Gaidhealtachd* spoke the traditional language.

The language was almost exclusively spoken in the village itself. The overall picture was only slightly modified by the presence of three English speaking families living in or near the curing yards of the village.

Area description:

This fact-sheet is concerned with the small fishing village of *Eurabol* (Embo) near *Dòrnach* (Dornoch) in the county of *Cataibh* (Sutherland). It is situated on the relatively sheltered North Sea coast of the county.

With the exception of a few notables (like the local teacher or policeman) almost every household was dependent on the sea.



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	472	41	1	5	425	34	375	96.2 %
3-4	25		0	0	25	18	4	88.0 %
5-9	60		1	0	59	6	47	89.8 %
10-14	65		0	0	65	0	62	95.4 %
15-24	89		0	0	89	0	88	98.9 %
25-44	123		0	4	119	4	114	99.2 %
45-64	53		0	1	52	3	47	96.2 %
65+	16		0	0	16	3	13	100 %
Gender								
Female	225	25	1	2	207	16	186	97.6 %
Male	237	16	0	3	218	18	189	95.0 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	418	38	1	1	378	32	341	98.7 %
In neighbouring parish¹	9	0	0	0	9	0	9	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	8	0	0	1	7	1	6	100 %
Other places	37	3	0	3	31	1	19	64.5 %

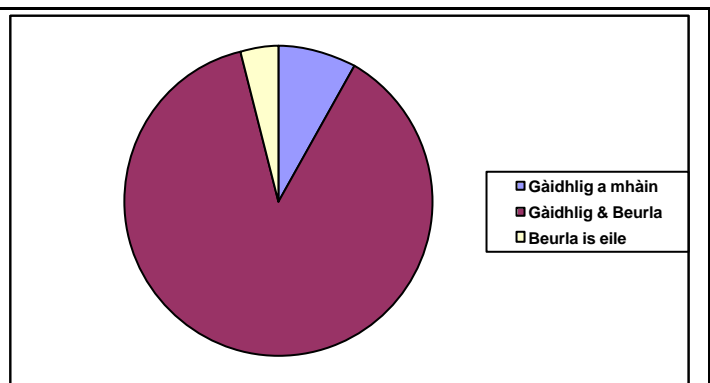
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Creich, Lairg, Rogart and Golspie (all Sutherland).

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>Eurabol</i>	92	425	34	375	96.2 %
Individual communities					
<i>Eurabol (Am Baile)</i> (Embo Village)	89	407	34	371	99.5 %
<i>Taigh na Sgoile & Cùirtean Salainn</i> (School House & Curing Yards)	3	18	0	4	22.2 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	49	268	22	241	98.1 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	9	51	4	47	100 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	2	12	0	2	16.7 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	32	94	8	85	98.9 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	80	365	27	337	99.7 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	0	0	0	0	-
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	2	9	0	3	33.3 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	3	22	0	14	63.6 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	1	8	0	8	100 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	4	17	3	13	94.1 %
Remaining occupations	2	4	4	0	100 %

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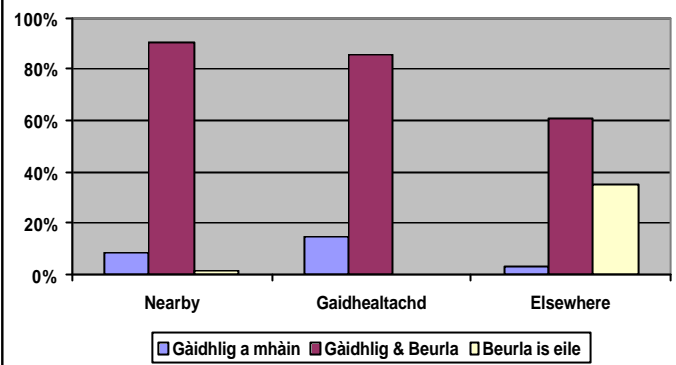
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Almost all persons born in the *Gaidhealtachd* spoke Gàidhlig independent whether born nearby or further away. About a third of those born outside the main Gàidhlig speaking areas, however, did speak only English.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Dornoch or in the adjacent parishes of Creich, Lairg, Rogart and Golspie (all Sutherland).

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 two inhabitants of the village itself did not have a “G” or “G&E” on their registration sheets. A 3 year old son of a fisherman and a 57 year old carrier from Duffus in Moray were enumerated in this category. The remaining “English only” speakers lived outside the village itself in the families of the local teacher (from Fifeshire), a grocer (born in Forgue in Aberdeenshire) and the police constable (originally from Foulis in Ross-shire).
2. Official census figures reported 379 bilingual inhabitants and 48 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 472 persons (90.5 %). The usually resident population on the other hand consisted of 375 Gàidhlig-speakers (96.2 %) including 34 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.