

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 142

Page 1 of 4

Area: *Latharn (Lorn): Cruachan, Bàrr Madaidh, An Coire Buidhe, Maol Achaidh, Duaig, Driseag, Cill Mhunna, Druim Daraich, Abhach, Bàrr na Linne, Blàr Gobhar, Àird a'Chonghail, Port Innis Sia Ràmhaich, An Camas, Doirean & Eiridinn*

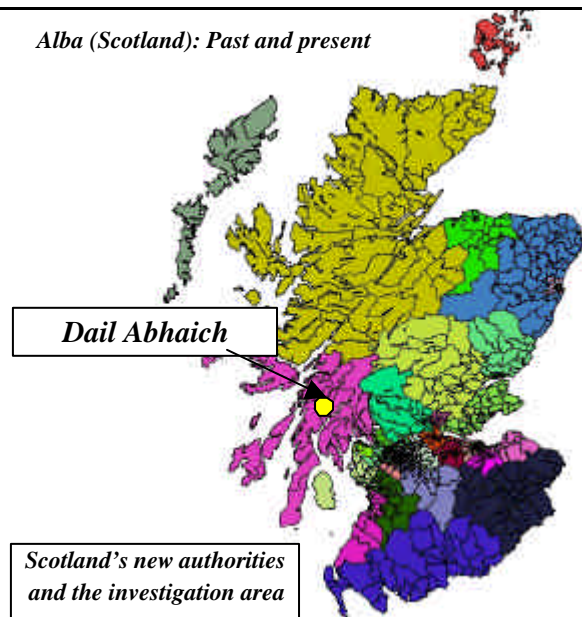
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Newyork Farm, Cruachan, Kilmacha, Barmady, Corrybuie, Molachy, Duaig, Narachan, Dunineran, Drissaig, Kilmun, Drimdaroch, Avich, Barnaline, Blarghour, Ardchonnell, Portinisherrich, Kames, Durrin & Eredine)

Number of households: 34 **Population present at census night:** 158

Share of resident population (aged three years +) speaking Gàidhlig: 93.7 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Argyll	Kilchrenan & Dalavich	Dalavich	1 2	1 - 4 1 - 5

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

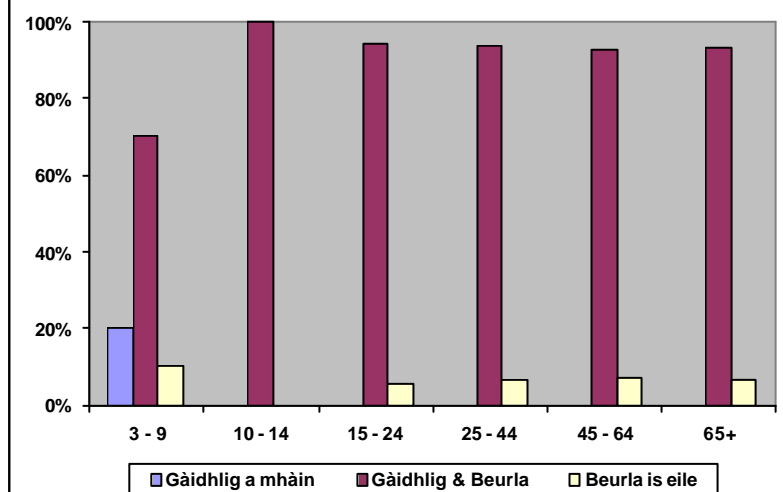
The language was universally spoken by the local population. Seven of the nine inhabitants “with no Gaelic” were born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. Almost the whole population was essentially bilingual with four monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers reported between the ages of three and five.

The highest proportions of *Gàidhlig* speakers were found in the communities around *Abhach* (Avich) and *Blàr Gobhar* (Blarghour) on both shores of *Loch Obha* (Loch Awe).

Area description:

This old parish of *Dail Abhaich* (Dalavich) occupies some stretches of land on both sides of the middle reaches of *Loch Obha* (Loch Awe) in rural *Earra-Ghaidheal* (Argyll).

At the time of the census this was a sparsely populated district with only a few shepherds, gamekeepers, and farmers left after the Highland Clearances.



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

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Page 2 of 4

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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	158	7	0	9	142	4	129	93.7 %
3-4	6		0	0	6	2	2	66.7 %
5-9	14		0	0	14	2	12	100 %
10-14	15		0	0	15	0	15	100 %
15-24	36		0	2	34	0	32	94.1 %
25-44	36		0	5	31	0	29	93.5 %
45-64	28		0	1	27	0	25	92.6 %
65+	16		0	1	15	0	14	93.3 %
Gender								
Female	81	5	0	1	75	1	71	96.0 %
Male	77	2	0	8	67	3	58	91.0 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	53	7	0	2	44	0	43	97.7 %
In neighbouring parish¹	48	0	0	1	47	1	44	95.7 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	44	0	0	4	40	3	37	100 %
Other places	13	0	0	2	11	0	5	45.5 %

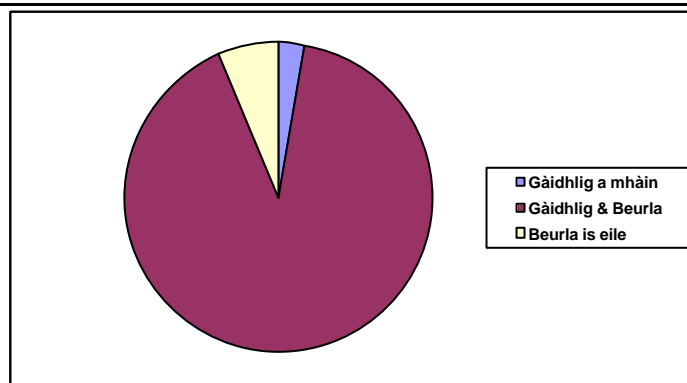
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Ardchattan & Muckairn, Kilmartin, Kilmichael Glassary, Glenorchy & Inishail, Kilninver & Kilmelford, Inveraray and Kilmore & Kilbride (all Argyll).

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.

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Page 3 of 4

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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Dail Abhaich</i>	34	142	4	129	93.7 %
Individual communities					
<i>Bàrr Madaidh & Duaig</i> (Barmady & Duaig)	8	36	0	33	91.7 %
<i>Abhach & Driseag</i> (Avich & Drishaig)	7	27	2	24	96.3 %
<i>Blàr Gobhar & Àird a'Chonghail</i> (Blarghour & Ardchonnell)	13	51	0	49	96.1 %
<i>Eridinn & Na Doirean</i> (Eredine & Durrin)	6	28	2	23	89.3 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	12	69	4	63	97.1 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	5	21	0	21	100 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	6	0	4	66.7 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	16	46	0	41	89.1 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	7	38	0	34	89.5 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	13	62	2	59	98.4 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	2	8	0	7	87.5 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	3	9	0	9	100 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	2	7	0	7	100 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	7	18	2	13	83.3 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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Page 4 of 4

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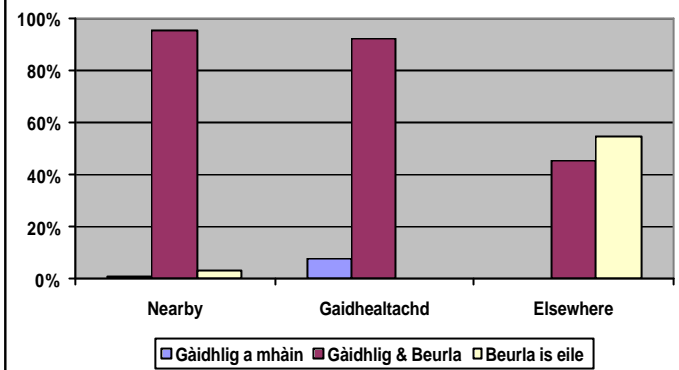
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Almost all persons born in the *Gaidhealtachd* spoke Gàidhlig. On the other hand those born elsewhere were more likely to speak only English.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Kilchrenan & Dalavich or in the parishes of Ardchattan & Muckairn, Kilmartin, Kilmichael Glassary, Glenorchy & Inishail, Kilninver & Kilmelford, Inveraray and Kilmore & Kilbride (all Argyll).

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. Nine persons in the district were enumerated as not speaking Gàidhlig. Among them was a farmer, his wife and brother-in-law from Galloway. In addition another farmer (born in Lanarkshire), a servant from Forfarshire and a tailor from Linlithgowshire did not speak Gàidhlig. The remaining “English only” returns came from two 4-year old children in the district.
2. There were four monolingual Gàidhlig speakers reported in 1891. They were all aged between three and five years old and were enumerated in two households.
3. In original census report terms the district had a population of 158 persons of all ages. 136 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 6 persons spoke “Gaelic only”. This lead to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 89.9 %. This figure was an under-estimate of 3.8 % compared with the more realistic assumption taking into account only the usually resident population.