

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 153

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**Area:** *Caladar (Cawdor): A'Bhraclaich, Geadais Mhòr, Baile Lòn Gheadais, Poll nan Each, Baile Ùr Chaladair, Baile a'Mhuilinn Chaladair, Ràta Cnoc & Ràta an Lòin*

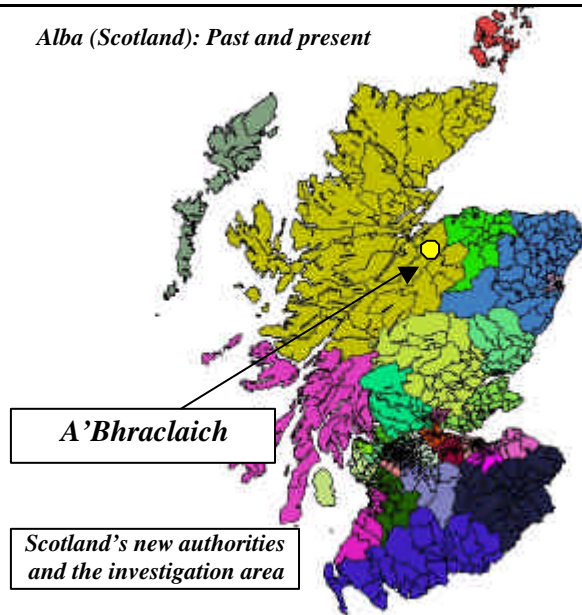
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Brackla, Meikle Geddes, Balloan of Geddes, Standalane, Polneach, Newton of Cawdor, Milltown of Cawdor, Raitnock & Raitloan)

**Number of households:** 41      **Population present at census night:** 210

**Share of resident population (aged 3 years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 18.7 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Nairnshire	Cawdor	Cawdor	2	8 (part)- 17

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

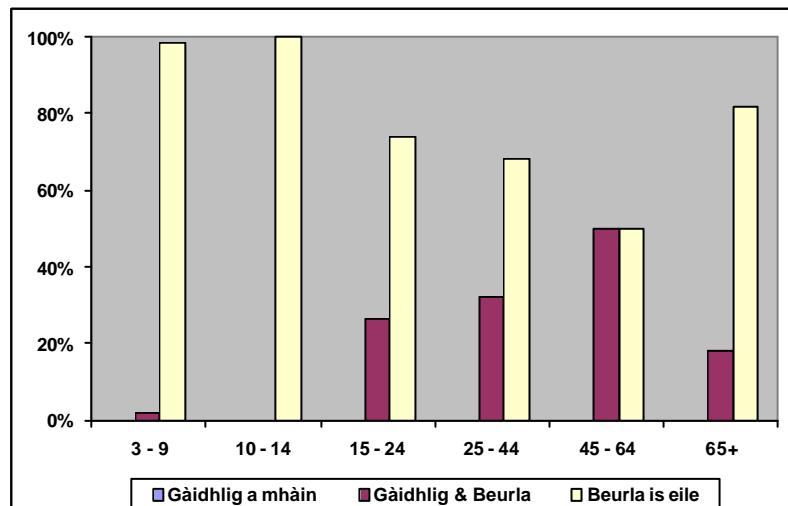
In 1891 the language was spoken almost exclusively only by people who had moved to the area from the wider *Gaidhealtachd* further west and south. Therefore it can be stated that *A'Bhraclaich* (Brackla) was situated to the east of the "language frontier" and it had been at least for a number of decades.

*Gàidhlig* was spoken by a substantial proportion of residents only in the settlements around *Ràta an Lòin* (Raitloan) with some 40 % of usually resident persons speaking the language.

## Area description:

This fact-sheet is concerned with the people living in the hamlet of *A'Bhraclaich* (Brackla) and a few farms to the east of the village of *Caladar* (Cawdor). As such the area was part of the ancient county of *Siorrachd Narainn* (Nairnshire) in 1891.

At the time the local economy was heavily dependent on farming activities and most households earned their living with agriculture related occupations.



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. <sup>3</sup>	Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18.7 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>39</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.6 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>29</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26.3 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>57</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>32.1 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>50.0 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18.2 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18.1 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19.3 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3.5 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23.1 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>80.0 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8.1 %</b>

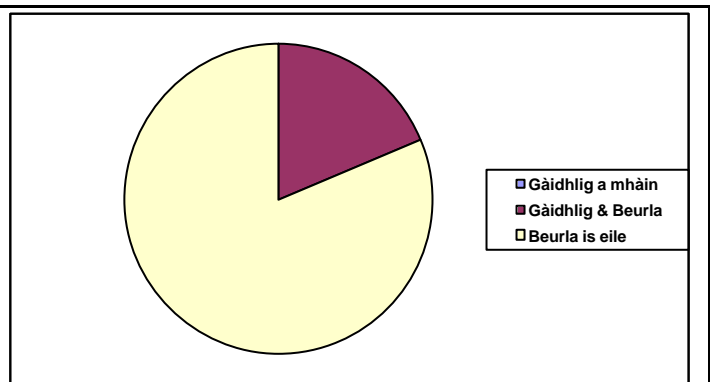
**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Civil parishes of Croy & Dalcross (Inverness), Nairn, Ardlach and Croy (all Nairn).

<sup>2</sup> Other parishes in Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.

<sup>3</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 (%)
<i>A'Bhraclaich &amp; Ràta an Lòin</i>	41	182	0	34	18.7 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>A'Bhraclaich</i> (Brackla)	15	67	0	22	32.8 %
<i>Geadais Mhòr &amp; Baile a'Mhuilinn Chaladair</i> (Meikle Geddes & Milltown of Cawdor)	39	139	0	37	26.6 %
<i>Ràta Cnoc &amp; Ràta an Lòin</i> (Raitnock & Raitloan)	7	22	1	8	40.9 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	8	43	0	18	37.2 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	4	0	1	25.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	6	33	0	6	18.2 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	14	80	0	1	1.3 %
Households with no children (0-14)	12	22	0	10	45.5 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	5	32	9	2	6.3 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	1	2	0	0	0.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	3	0	0	0.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	5	25	0	5	20.0 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	5	22	0	2	9.1 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	24	98	0	25	25.5 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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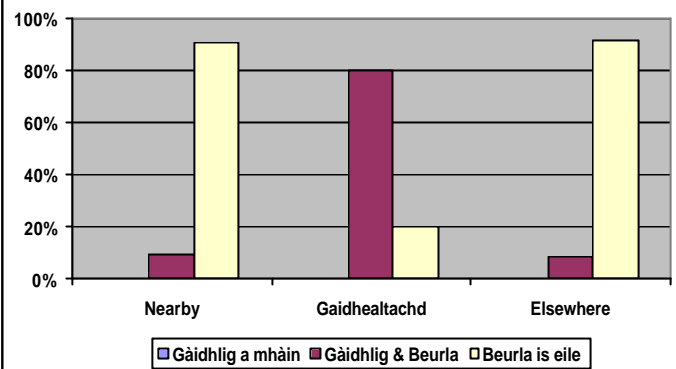
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Almost all Gàidhlig speakers enumerated in 1891 were not born nearby but they had their birthplace in the wider *Gaidhealtachd* to the West and South.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Cawdor (Nairnshire) or in the parishes of Croy & Dalcross (Inverness), Nairn, Ardcloch and Croy (all Nairn).

<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. In original census report terms the district had a population of 210 persons of all ages. In total 36 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English”. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 17.1 %. This figure was a slight under-estimate of 1.6 % of the figures of the usually resident population.