

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 001

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Area: *Bràighean Mhàrr (Braes of Mar): Inbhir Eìdh, Linn Dhè, Coire Mùillidh, Gleann Cluanaidh & Tom an t-Sabhail*

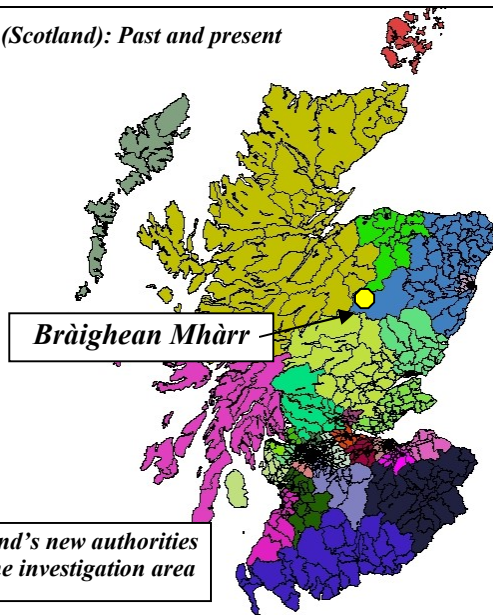
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Mar Forest, Old Mar Lodge, Geldie, Linn of Dee, Inverey, Elleanfearn, Croftmuckan, Glenclunie Lodge, Tomintoul, Mar Lodge Road, Mar Lodge, Corriemulzie)

Number of households: 70 Population present at census night: 261

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 59.2 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Aberdeenshire	Crathie & Braemar	Crathie & Braemar	5	1 - 7
			6	1 - 7

Alba (Scotland): Past and present

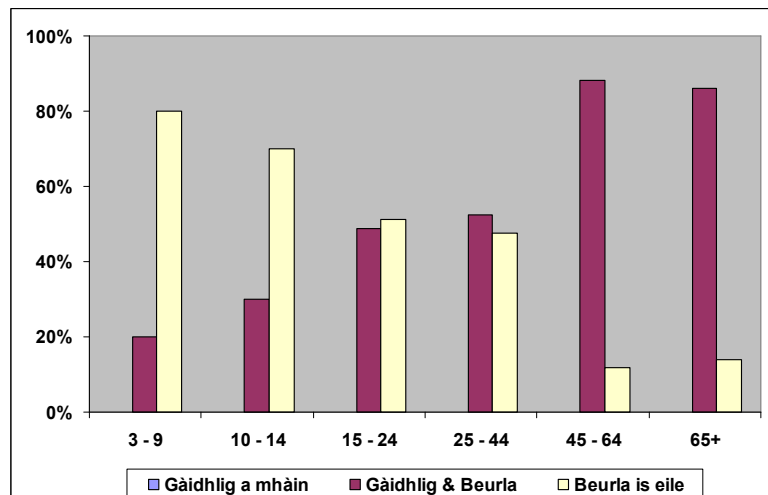


State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

A majority of the resident population still spoke Gàidhlig in the district. All speakers were effectively bilingual. The age profile was already heavily biased towards older generations. Locals were more likely to speak Gàidhlig than incomers (mainly from Lower Deeside). Language transmission was only successful with no “English only” parent around. English monolinguals were most common in the servant occupations and of course among the landowners. Strongest Gàidhlig community was *Inbhir Eìdh* (Inverey) with 86.3 % speakers of the traditional language.

Area description:

The Highland district in question occupies the westernmost part of Aberdeenshire – more precisely the remotest parts of Upper Deeside. Besides the usual Highland lodges and the related gamekeeper dwellings the population was concentrated in (legally unprotected) crofting communities like the tiny hamlet of Inverey. The neighbouring village of Braemar acted as main focal point of trade and officialdom (see profile no. 003 for details).



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	261	10	0	11	240	0	142	59.2 %
3-4	6	0	0	0	6	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	15	0	0	1	14	0	4	28.6 %
10-14	31	0	0	1	30	0	9	30.0 %
15-24	40	0	0	1	39	0	19	48.7 %
25-44	67	0	0	4	63	0	33	52.4 %
45-64	61	0	0	2	59	0	52	88.1 %
65+	31	0	0	2	29	0	25	86.2 %
Gender								
Female	141	4	0	3	134	0	79	59.0 %
Male	120	6	0	8	106	0	63	59.4 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	192	10	0	5	177	0	122	68.9 %
In neighbouring parish¹	18	0	0	1	17	0	7	41.2 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	5	0	0	0	5	0	5	100 %
Other places	46	0	0	5	41	0	8	19.5 %

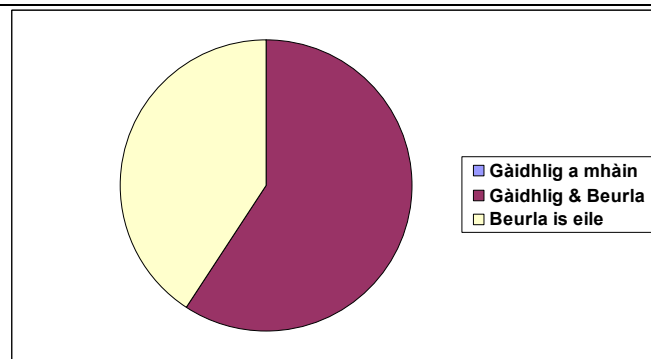
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Kirkmichael, Moulin, Atholl (all Perth); Strathdon, Glenmuick, Glengairn & Tullich (all Aberdeen); Kirkmichael (Banff); Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie, Duthil & Rothiemurchus (all Inverness).

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.de/GLP_english.htm.

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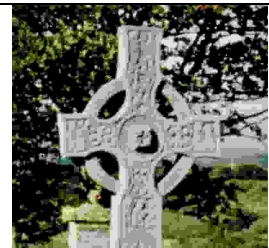
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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Bràighean Mhàrr	70	240	0	142	59.2 %
Individual communities					
<i>Frìth Mhàrr & Seann Loidse Mhàrr</i> (Mar Forest & Old Mar Lodge)	12	46	0	16	34.8 %
<i>Geallaidh & Linn Dhè</i> (Geldie & Linn of Dee)	7	21	0	12	57.1 %
<i>Inbhir Eidh</i> (Inverey)	21	73	0	63	86.3 %
<i>Ailean Fheàrna & Croit Mucain</i> (Elleanfearn & Croftmuckan)	4	12	0	5	41.7 %
<i>Gleann Cluanaidh</i> (Glen Clunie)	6	17	0	5	29.4 %
<i>Tom an t-Sabhail</i> (Tomintoul)	4	24	0	13	54.2 %
<i>Rathad Loidse Mhàrr</i> (Mar Lodge Road)	11	36	0	25	69.4 %
<i>Loidse Mhàrr & Coire Mùillidh</i> (Mar Lodge & Corriemulzie)	5	11	0	3	27.3 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	9	44	0	31	70.5 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	6	28	0	17	60.7 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	6	32	0	8	25.0 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	6	24	0	0	0.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	43	112	0	86	76.8 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	22	92	0	65	70.7 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	16	52	0	31	59.6 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	1	0	1	-
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	4	9	0	6	66.7 %
Living on private means	3	5	0	5	100 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	15	55	0	25	45.5 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	4	16	0	5	31.3 %
Remaining occupations	5	10	0	4	40.0 %

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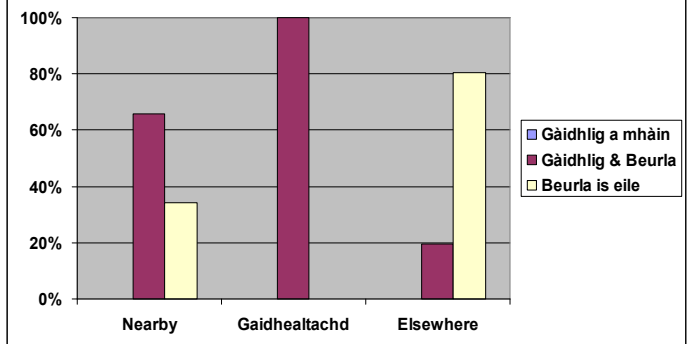
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was evidently a traditional means of communication and not “imported” by incomers. More than three fifths of locally born people were *Gàidhlig* speaking.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Crathie & Braemar or in the adjacent parishes of Kirkmichael, Moulin, Atholl (all Perth); Strathdon, Glenmuick, Glengairn & Tullich (all Aberdeen); Kirkmichael (Banff); Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie, Duthil & Rothiemurchus (all Inverness).

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. Completely *Gàidhlig*-speaking families still existed in the townships of *Inbhir Eidh* and *Tom an t-Sabhail* (on the southern margins of *Bràigh Mhàrr*).
2. Most inhabitants from other parts of the *Gaidhealtachd* worked as gamekeepers or shepherds on the local estates.
3. Even members of family who were born in Lowland locations like Dundee or Edinburgh could speak *Gàidhlig* in some local families – this is a clear hint that the language had been a necessary asset in the community at least one or two decades before the census.
4. In original census report terms the district had a population of 261 persons of all ages. 143 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” leading to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 54.8 %. This was an under-estimate of 4.4 %!