

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 003

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Area: **Bràigh Mhàrr (Braemar): Baile a'Chaisteil & Achadh an Droighinn**

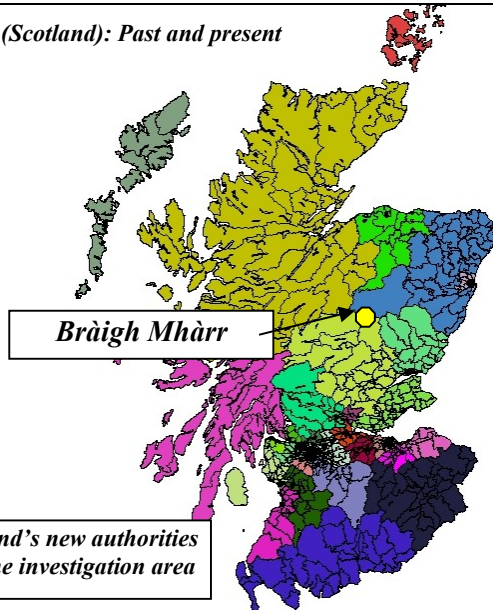
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Castleton, Auchindyne)

Number of households: **108** Population present at census night: **482**

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: **24.8 %**

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Aberdeenshire	Crathie & Braemar	Crathie & Braemar	4 6	4 - 11 8 - 23

Alba (Scotland): Past and present

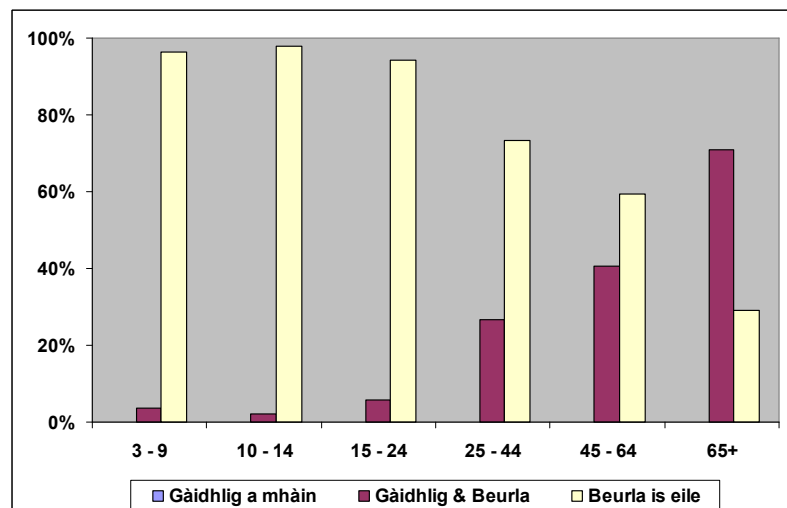


State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

Roughly a quarter of residents still spoke Gàidhlig in this village. There was, however, a large difference in language knowledge between generations. Whereas Gàidhlig was spoken by most elderly persons, it was almost gone among the young. Nonetheless it is very evident that Gàidhlig had been a dominant community language in this area some decades before. In the western part of the village Achadh an Droighinn (Achendryne) Gàidhlig was especially strong. Whole families were still speaking the traditional tongue there.

Area description:

The village of *Bràigh Mhàrr* (Braemar) acted as main focal point of trade and officialdom in this westernmost part of Aberdeenshire. Whereas the communities further west (see profile no. 001 for details) were occupied by gamekeepers, a few crofters and the odd lodge keeper, the life in both parts of the village was more concerned with trade and craft. In addition a few hotels, inns and boarding houses were signs of the importance of the village on the cross-roads between the high passes over the surrounding hill country.



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

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Area: *Bràigh Mhàrr (Braemar): Baile a'Chaisteil & Achadh an Droighinn*

	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. ³	Total ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	482	21	0	17	444	0	110	24.8 %
3-4	13	0	0	0	13	0	1	7.7 %
5-9	44	0	0	0	44	0	1	2.3 %
10-14	47	0	0	1	46	0	1	2.2 %
15-24	93	0	0	5	88	0	5	5.7 %
25-44	115	0	0	6	109	0	29	26.6 %
45-64	100	0	0	4	96	0	39	40.6 %
65+	49	0	0	1	48	0	34	70.8 %
Gender								
Female	276	11	0	6	259	0	67	25.9 %
Male	206	10	0	11	185	0	43	23.2 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	298	20	0	1	277	0	88	31.8 %
In neighbouring parish¹	20	0	0	1	19	0	1	5.3 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	21	0	0	1	20	0	16	80.0 %
Other places	143	1	0	14	128	0	5	3.9 %

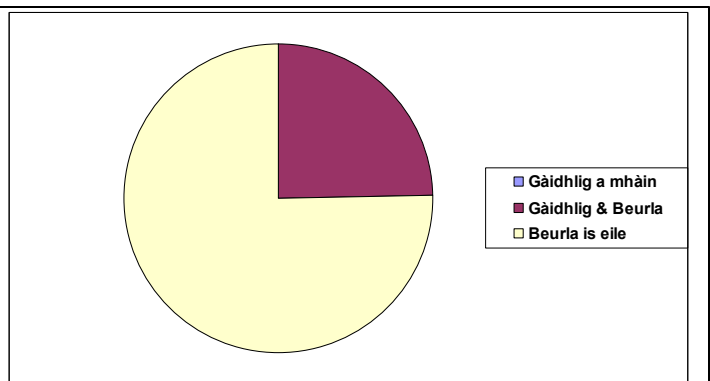
Notes:

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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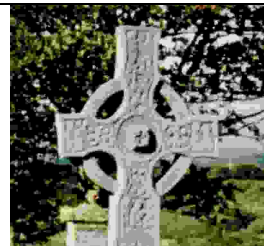
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Area: *Bràigh Mhàrr (Braemar): Baile a'Chaisteil & Achadh an Droighinn*

	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Bràigh Mhàrr</i>	108	444	0	110	24.8 %
Individual communities					
<i>Baile a'Chaisteil</i> (Castleton)	35	162	0	28	17.3 %
<i>Achadh an Droighinn</i> (Auchendryne)	73	282	0	82	29.1 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	14	85	0	40	47.1 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	10	43	0	10	23.3 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	8	27	0	9	33.3 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	23	133	0	3	2.3 %
Households with no children (0-14)	53	156	0	48	30.8 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	11	53	0	12	22.6 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	4	16	0	8	50.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	9	30	0	5	16.7 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	32	159	0	34	21.4 %
Living on private means	5	16	0	3	18.8 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	35	120	0	41	34.2 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	11	44	0	7	15.9 %
Remaining occupations	1	6	0	0	0.0 %

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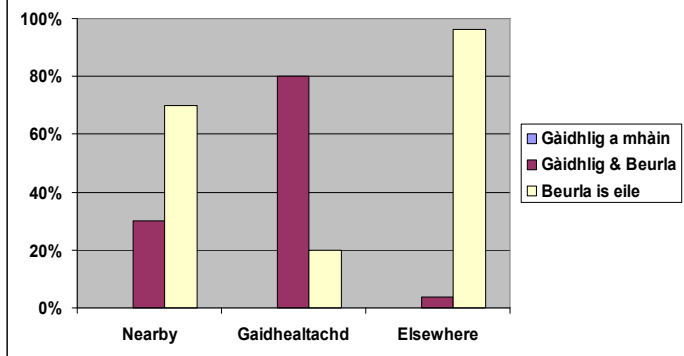
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

A considerable part of the locally born population was still Gàidhlig speaking. The percentage among those born in other parts of the *Gaidhealtachd* was understandably higher.

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. There were no monolingual Gàidhlig speakers found in the district.
2. In original census report terms the district had a population of 482 persons of all ages. 110 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” leading to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 22.8 %. This was still an under-estimate of 2.0 % compared with the realistic figures considering only the usually resident population!