

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 004

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**Area:** *Glenn Gharthain & Corr Garaidh (Glengairn & Corgarff): Blàr Glas, Còrr an Dà Bheinn, An Tòrr Beag, Dail nam Bò, An Seann Bhaile, An Tòrran, An Dail Fada, Cùil nam Bàthaichean, Drochaid a'Choilich, Dail nan Damh & Àth Làirig*

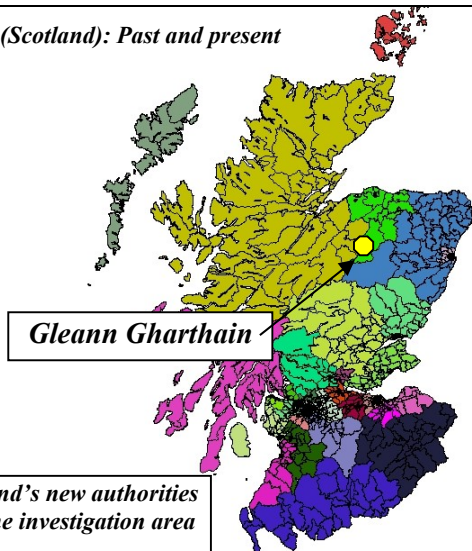
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Blairglass, Cormdavon, Balacrosk, Torbeg, Milton, Stranlea, Dalnabo, Shenval, Torran, Tomnavey, Clashinreich, Dalfad, Ardoch, Balnoe, Laggan, Glenfenzie, Lary, Houghton, Clashmore, Corryhoul. Colnabaichin, Tornahaish, Belhandy, Ordgarff, Dulrick, Cockbridge, Delnadumph, Inchmore)

**Number of households:** 110    **Population present at census night:** 461

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 10.5 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Aberdeenshire	Crathie & Braemar	Crathie & Braemar	2	10
	Glenmuick, Glengairn & Tullich		2	1 - 9
	Strathdon	Strathdon	1	7-12
			2	1-5

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*

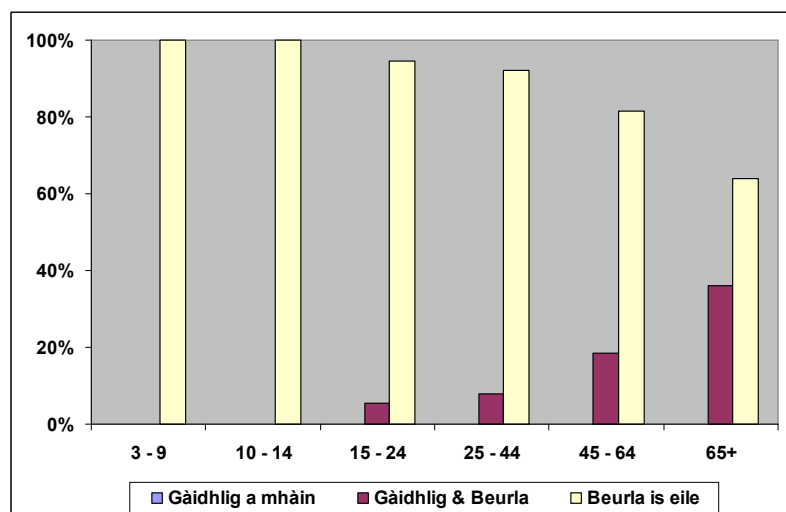


### State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

There were still about 10% of residents speaking the Gàidhlig language. Among them were a few speakers who were born in the parish. Therefore, it is clear that Gàidhlig had been used as means of communication traditionally in this part of Scotland. Over a third of persons at the age of 65 or above were Gàidhlig speakers! Perhaps surprisingly the hamlet of *Dail nan Damh* (Dalnadamph) in upper *Srath Deathain* (Strathdon) had the strongest Gàidhlig presence in this area at the time.

### Area description:

The district covers the whole *Glenn Gharthain* (Glengairn) and the uppermost stretches of *Srath Deathain* (Strathdon) in the south-western corner of Aberdeenshire. People in this thinly populated district were occupied with farming or worked as servants on one of the local estates. Very important trade routes ran through these glens connecting *Oir Dhè* (Deeside) with *Srath Spè* (Strathspey).



**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 <sup>4</sup>	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>10.6 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5.5 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7.8 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18.4 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>36.2 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11.2 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9.8 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8.1 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21.7 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>88.9 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.9 %</b>

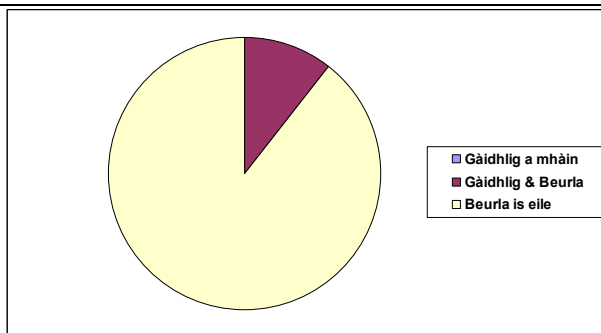
**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Kirkmichael, Moulin, Atholl (all Perth); Kirkmichael (Banff); Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie, Duthil & Rothiemurchus (all Inverness).

<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.

<sup>4</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.de/GLP\\_english.htm](http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP_english.htm).

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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b><i>Gleann Gharthain &amp; Corr Garaidh</i></b>	<b>110</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>10.5 %</b>
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Gleann Gharthain (Glen Gairn)</i>	52	188	0	25	13.3 %
<i>Srath Deathain (Strathdon)</i>	51	205	0	12	5.9 %
<i>Dail nan Damh (Dalnadamph)</i>	7	16	0	6	37.5 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
<b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29.4 %</b>
<b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16.7 %</b>
<b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20.0 %</b>
<b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5.4 %</b>
<b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14.9 %</b>
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
<b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7.2 %</b>
<b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19.2 %</b>
<b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11.1 %</b>
<b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>26.1 %</b>
<b>Living on private means</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40.0 %</b>
<b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9.4 %</b>
<b>Remaining occupations</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>

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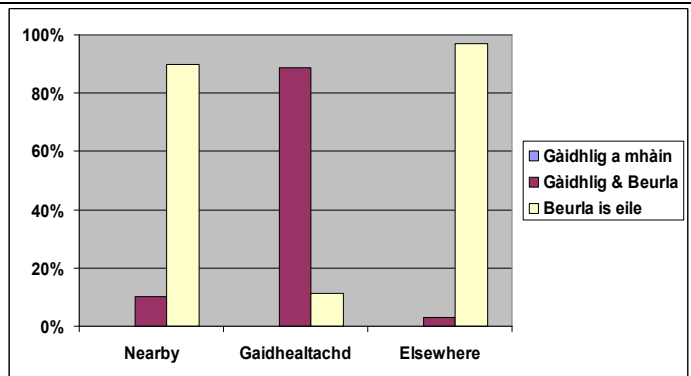
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Besides several Gàidhlig speakers from other parts of the *Gaidhealtachd* there were still some 10% of locally born residents speaking the language.

### Notes:

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

<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. A few households (mainly elderly couples) were returned as bilingual Gàidhlig speakers. This included also native speakers of *Srath Deathain* (Strathdon) Gàidhlig in the more remote parts of *Corr Garaidh* (Corgarff) district. There were no monolingual Gàidhlig speakers found in the area.
2. In original census report terms, the district had a population of 482 persons of all ages. 44 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” leading to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 9.1 %. This was an under-estimate of 1.4 % compared with the realistic figures considering only the usually resident population!