

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 006

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**Area:** *Leamhnachd (Lennox): Seileachaidh, An Ros, Coille Mhòr, Rubha Àird Eòrainn, Àird Eas, Rubha Àird a'Chòthais, Clach Buidhe, Gleann a'Ghoill, Sròn a'Chlachair, Inbhir Snàthaid, Coire Aircleid & Gleann Dubh*

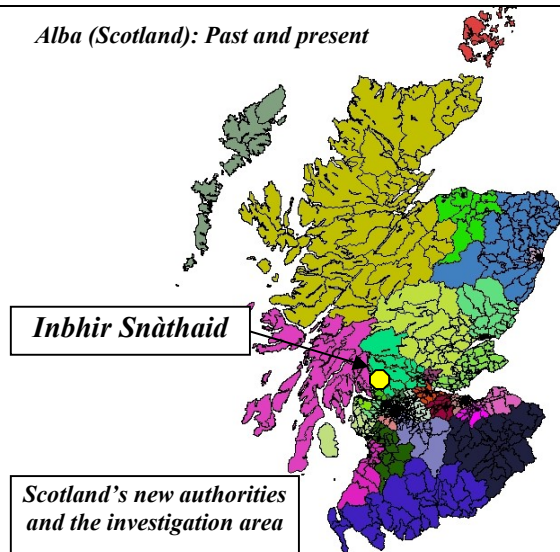
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Salloch, Ross, Colliemore, Rowardennan, Ardess, Rowchoish, Clachbuie, Glengyle, Stronachlachar, Inversnaid, Corriearklet, Glendow, Coirginnan)

**Number of households:** 46      **Population present at census night:** 293

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 39.1 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Stirlingshire	Buchanan	Buchanan	3	1-6
			4	1-12

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*

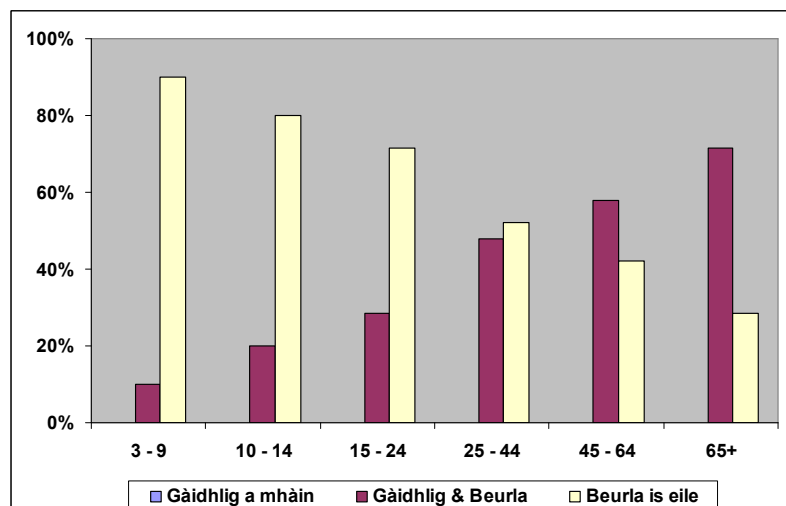


## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

Almost 40 % of usually resident persons spoke Gàidhlig. There were still families around where all members were Gàidhlig-speaking. The language was especially strong in the communities of *Rubha Àird a'Chòthais* (Rowchoish) and *Gleann Dubh* (Glendow) near *Inbhir Snàthaid* (Inversnaid). Of course the older generation was much more likely to speak the language than younger members of the community.

## Area description:

The district occupies the hilly portion of the parish of *Bochanan* (Buchanan) on the eastern shores of *Loch Laomuinn* (Loch Lomond) and includes also *Gleann a'Ghoill* (Glengyle) and *Sròn a'Chlachair* (Stronachlachar). People in the small hamlets in this westernmost part of *Siorrachd Sruighlea* (Stirlingshire) earned a living mainly by shepherding, game keeping and farming.



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>293</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>39.1 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13.6 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20.0 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>28.6 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>47.8 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>57.8 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>71.4 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34.4 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43.6 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25.3 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>51.4 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>93.8 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15.6 %</b>

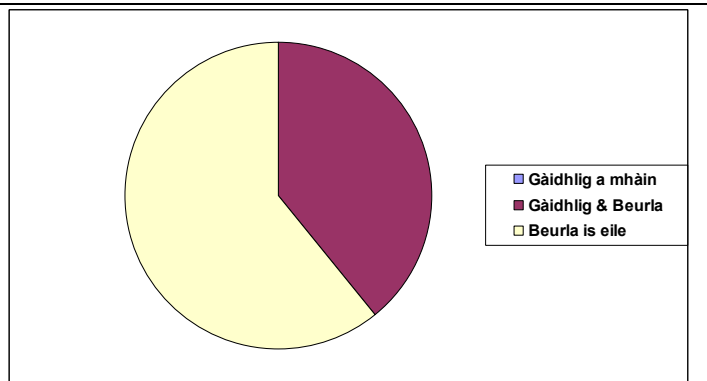
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Drymen (Stirling) or in the parishes of Aberfoyle, Callander, Balquhidder (all Perth), Arrochar and Luss (both Dunbartonshire).

<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 & Beurla, or (3) Beurla is eile

## 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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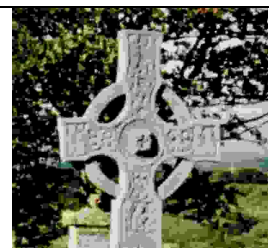
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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b><i>Inbhir Snàthaid &amp; Rubha Àird Eòrain</i></b>	<b>46</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>39.1 %</b>
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Seileachaidh</i> (Sallochy)	7	35	0	5	14.3 %
<i>Ros &amp; Coille Mhòr</i> (Ross & Colliemore)	4	19	0	3	15.8 %
<i>Rubha Àird Eòrain &amp; Àird Eas</i> (Rowardennan & Ardess)	5	20	0	8	40.0 %
<i>Rubha Àird a'Chòthais &amp; Clach Buidhe</i> (Rowchoish & Clachbuie)	4	21	0	16	76.2 %
<i>Gleann a'Ghoill &amp; Sròn a'Chlachair</i> (Glengyle & Stronachlachar)	5	35	0	12	34.3 %
<i>Inbhir Snàthaid &amp; Coire Aircleid</i> (Inversnaid & Corriearklet)	10	41	0	18	43.9 %
<i>Gleann Dubh</i> (Glendow)	5	26	0	15	57.7 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	7	57	0	30	52.6 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	9	0	1	11.1 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	7	30	0	8	26.7 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	9	34	0	0	0.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	22	67	0	38	56.7 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	4	30	0	19	63.3 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	17	75	0	35	46.7 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	5	11	0	0	0.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	2	17	0	6	35.3 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	3	17	0	5	29.4 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	15	47	0	12	25.5 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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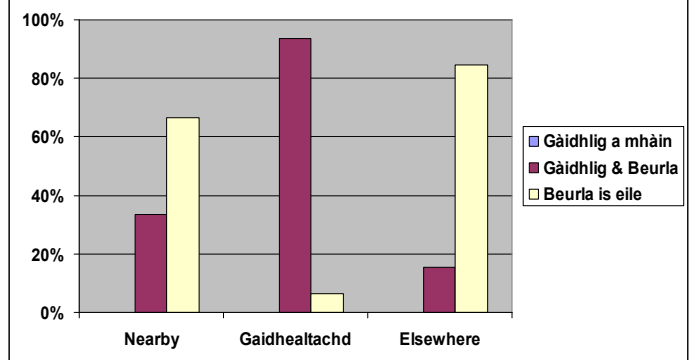
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

A third of locally born persons were Gàidhlig speakers. Almost every resident born in other parts of the *Gaidhealtachd* spoke the language, too.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Buchanan, Drymen (both Stirling) or in the parishes of Aberfoyle, Callander, Balquhidder (all Perth); Arrochar and Luss (both Dunbartonshire).

<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. Members of several families were returned as bilingual *Gàidhlig* speakers. There was one monolingual *Gàidhlig* speaker registered in the area: A one year old boy in a completely *Gàidhlig* speaking family in *Rubha Àird a'Chòthais* (Rowchoish).
2. A relatively high number of non-residents was enumerated at census night. Among them were 73 workers and engineers who were building tunnels at *Loch Caiterean* (Loch Katrine) for the Glasgow Water Works.
3. In original census report terms the district had a population of 293 persons of all ages. 77 enumerated inhabitants spoke "Gaelic and English" and one child did not speak English. This led to an "official" share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 26.6 %. This was a very high underestimate of 12.5 % compared with the realistic figures considering only the usually resident population! Main reason for this was the presence of workers employed by the Glasgow Water Works.