

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 027

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Area: *Bràghad Albainn (Breadalbane): Taigh an Droma, Achadh nan Tuirighnean, Uachdar Thìre, Achadh na Riabhach, Inbhir Thairbh, Iubhaich, Conanais & Inbhir Charnagaidh*

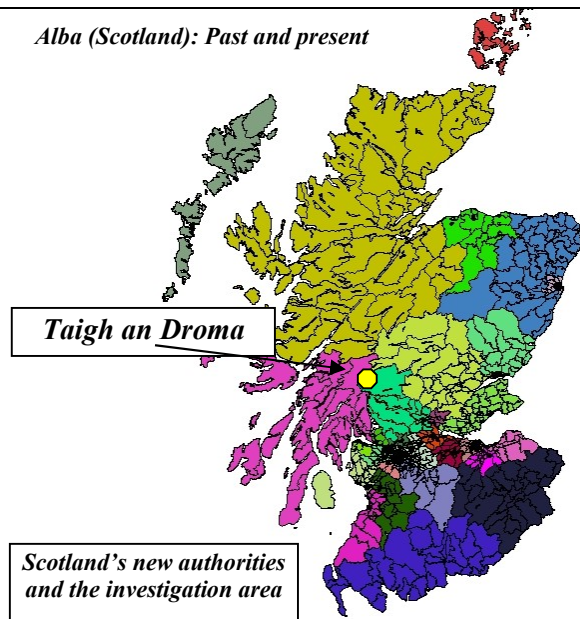
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Tyndrum, Clifton, Old Crianlarich, Inverherive, Auchtertyre, Auchrioch, Ewich, Kirkton, Cononish & Inverhaggenrie)

Number of households: 82 **Population present at census night:** 682

Share of resident population (aged 3 years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 74.2 %

| County | Civil parish | Registration district | Enumeration district number | Census form pages |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Perthshire | Killin | Strathfillan | 1 | 1 - 28 |

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



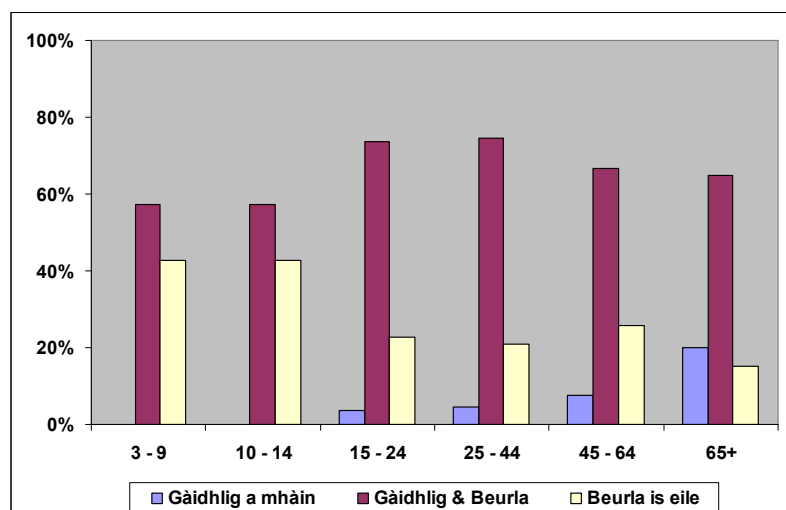
State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

During the time of the census a large railway workforce was enumerated in this district which distorted the official census figures beyond recognition.

Looking at the usually resident population, however, the district emerged still as a strongly Gàidhlig-speaking area. A majority of all age groups spoke Gàidhlig with a significant number of monolingual speakers in the adult generations. Almost everyone born either locally or in the wider *Gaidhealtachd* spoke the traditional language. Those born further away of course were mostly ignorant of Gàidhlig whether they were teachers or wealthy landowners.

Area description:

The district known as *Na Sraithibh* (Strathfillan) occupies the north-western corner of the ancient county of *Peairt* (Perth). This factsheet is considering the northern half of that area with the twin settlements of *Taigh an Droma* (Tyndrum) and *Achadh nan Tuirighnean* (Clifton). Previously remote and thinly populated the area experienced a great disruption just around the census date when hundreds of railway workers and engineers were busily engaged in the erection of the railway.



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 | 682 | 27 | 0 | 434 | 221 | 12 | 152 | 74.2 % |
| 3-4 | 14 | | 0 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 5 | 45.5 % |
| 5-9 | 16 | | 0 | 6 | 10 | 0 | 7 | 70.0 % |
| 10-14 | 29 | | 0 | 8 | 21 | 0 | 12 | 57.1 % |
| 15-24 | 183 | | 0 | 130 | 53 | 2 | 39 | 77.4 % |
| 25-44 | 251 | | 0 | 184 | 67 | 3 | 50 | 79.1 % |
| 45-64 | 126 | | 0 | 87 | 39 | 3 | 26 | 74.4 % |
| 65+ | 36 | | 0 | 16 | 20 | 4 | 13 | 85.0 % |
| Gender | | | | | | | | |
| Female | 150 | 12 | 0 | 30 | 108 | 5 | 79 | 77.8 % |
| Male | 532 | 15 | 0 | 404 | 113 | 7 | 73 | 70.8 % |
| Place of birth | | | | | | | | |
| Born in parish | 109 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 93 | 5 | 80 | 91.4 % |
| In neighbouring parish¹ | 20 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 15 | 1 | 14 | 100 % |
| Gaidhealtachd elsewhere² | 202 | 4 | 0 | 143 | 55 | 6 | 41 | 85.5 % |
| Other places | 351 | 13 | 0 | 280 | 58 | 0 | 17 | 29.3 % |

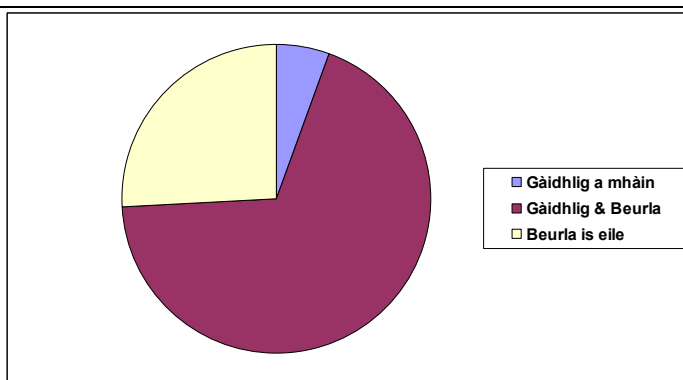
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Kenmore, Balquhider and Fortingall (all Perthshire), Glenorchy & Inishail, Inveraray (both Argyll) and Arrochar (Dumbartonshire).

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. This column includes also railway workers living in temporary huts.

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 & Beurla, 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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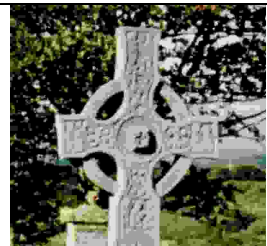
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| | House-holds | Usually resident population (3+) | | | |
|---|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Total | Gàidhlig | Gàidhlig & English | Gàidhlig speakers (%) |
| Taobh Tuath na Sraithibh | 82 | 221 | 12 | 152 | 74.2 % |
| Individual communities | | | | | |
| Taigh an Droma (Tyndrum) | 8 | 22 | 2 | 12 | 63.6 % |
| Achadh nan Tuirighnean (Clifton) | 50 | 122 | 10 | 78 | 72.1 % |
| Inbhir Charnagaidh & Iubhaich (Inverhaggernie & Ewich) | 18 | 39 | 0 | 31 | 79.5 % |
| Uachdar Thìre & Conanais (Auchtertyre & Cononish) | 6 | 38 | 0 | 31 | 81.6 % |
| Language of parents | | | | | |
| Both parents Gàidhlig speaking | 9 | 43 | 2 | 32 | 79.1 % |
| Single parent Gàidhlig speaking | 5 | 20 | 0 | 20 | 100 % |
| One parent Gàidhlig speaking | 4 | 23 | 0 | 8 | 34.8 % |
| No Gàidhlig speaking parent | 11 | 29 | 0 | 5 | 17.2 % |
| Households with no children (0-14) | 53 | 106 | 10 | 87 | 91.5 % |
| Occupation of head of household | | | | | |
| Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc. | 10 | 70 | 0 | 60 | 85.7 % |
| Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 100 % |
| Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc. | 4 | 17 | 0 | 7 | 41.3 % |
| Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc. | 12 | 49 | 1 | 33 | 69.4 % |
| Living on private means | 1 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 100 % |
| Manager, coachman, cook, etc. | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 66.7 % |
| Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc. | 50 | 71 | 7 | 43 | 70.4 % |
| Remaining occupations | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |

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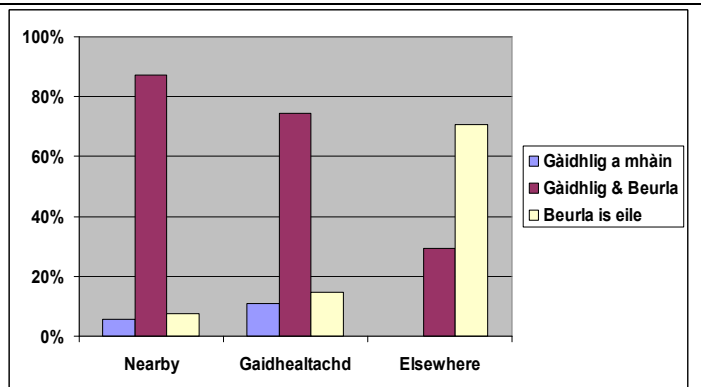
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Gàidhlig was overwhelmingly spoken by those born nearby. Most English monolingual speakers originated from outside the *Gaidhealtachd*.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Killin or in the parishes of Kenmore, Balquhidder and Fortingall (all Perthshire), Glenorchy & Inishail, Inveraray (both Argyll) and Arrochar (Dumbartonshire).

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. The census results for this district were heavily biased by the presence of a large workforce during the building phase of the railway. In these statistics returns of all persons living in railway huts were not considered in order to arrive at meaningful figures. 434 persons lived only temporarily in the area – among them 38 monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers (mainly from the Hebrides) and 150 bilingual members of the workforce. These persons appeared in official census reports and distorted the picture considerably.
2. In original census report terms, the district had a population of 682 persons of all ages. 302 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English”; an additional number of 50 persons spoke “Gaelic only”. This led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of just 51.6 %. This figure, however, was a dramatic under-estimate of 22.6 % because the huge number of railway workers was included in the “total population” of official census reports. 1901 census results logically proved to be in line with the percentages presented in this factsheet.