

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 028

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Area: *Gleann Sìdh & Gleann Ìl (Glen Shee & Glen Isla): Dail Mhungaidh, Spideal Ghlinn Sìdh, Fraochaidh, Baile na h-Eaglais Ghlinn Ìl, Drochaid Challaidh & Parsaidh*

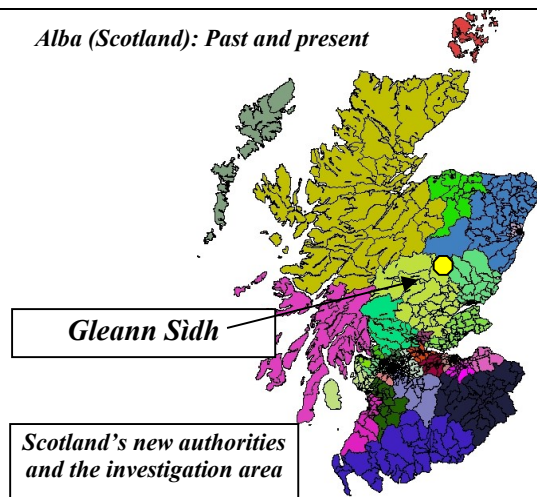
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Slochnacraig, Binzean, New Spittal, Dalmunzie, Firkins, Glenlochsie, Shenvaich, Old Spittal, Rhidorch, Tomt, Kersow, Rannavey, Dalhenzean, Corrydon, Finegand, Lair, Dalnaglar, Cray, Dunmay, Broughderg, Inverreddrie, Kirkhillocks, Brewlands, Craighead, Freuchie, Bellaty, Glenmerkie, Tulloch, Clacknockater, Craighead, Kirkton of Glenisla, Folda, Inverharity, Craigmeechie, Dalhally, Linns, Tulchan, Dalnamer, Dalnavie, Hillock of Borland, Easter Milton, Drumfort, Drumore, Mount Blair Lodge, Glenkilrie, Dalrulzion, Middleton, Craigton, Bleaton, Drumlinne, Blackhall, Bridge of Cally, Blackcraig, Ardlebank, Balnabeggan, Balnarn, Cally, Corriefodlay & Persie)

Number of households: 216 **Population present at census night:** 895

Share of resident population (aged 3 years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 18.1 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Perthshire	Kirkmichael	Glenshee	1	1 - 4
			2	1 - 5
		Persie	1	1 - 5
			2	1 - 8
			3	1 - 11
Angus	Glen Isla	Glen Isla	3	1 - 7
			4	1 - 6

Alba (Scotland): Past and present

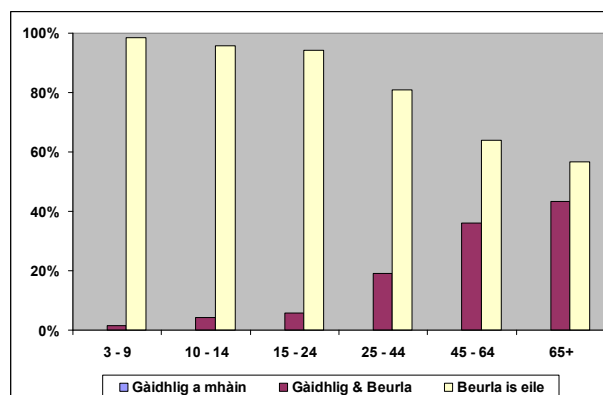


State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

The language had been already retreating from these former strongholds before 1891. Whereas Gàidhlig-speakers recorded in *Gleann Ìl* originated mainly from other *Gaidhealtachd* areas at the time part of the usually resident population of *Gleann Sìdh* consisted of genuine native speakers. Among the elderly Gàidhlig speakers were almost in the majority. The language was strongest in the small communities of *Dail Mhungaidh* (Dalmunzie) and *Spideal Ghlinn Sìdh* (Spittal of Glenshee) where over a third of residents still spoke Gàidhlig.

Area description:

This factsheet looks at two narrow glens in the eastern Gaidhealtachd: *Gleann Sìdh* (Glen Shee) in the county of *Peairt* (Perth) and *Gleann Ìl* (Glen Isla) in neighbouring *Aonghas* (Angus). Besides a few remote shooting lodges and shepherd huts there were a handful of farming communities in the more fertile lower reaches of these glens. Through *Gleann Sìdh* ran also a very important mountain track connecting *Srath Dhè* (Deeside) with the Lowlands.



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. ⁴	Total ⁵	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	895	48	0	24	823	0	149	18.1 %
3-4	37		0	0	37	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	94		0	0	94	0	2	2.1 %
10-14	74		0	2	72	0	3	4.2 %
15-24	167		0	8	159	0	9	5.7 %
25-44	225		0	9	216	0	41	19.0 %
45-64	174		0	5	169	0	61	36.1 %
65+	76		0	0	76	0	33	43.4 %
Gender								
Female	449	25	0	8	416	0	71	17.1 %
Male	446	23	0	16	407	0	78	19.2 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish¹	383	43	0	2	338	0	39	11.5 %
In neighbouring parish²	191	2	0	2	187	0	50	26.7 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere³	87	1	0	5	81	0	57	70.4 %
Other places	234	2	0	15	217	0	3	1.4 %

Notes:

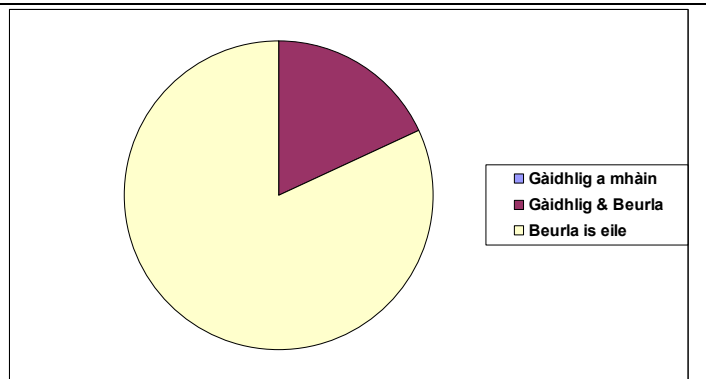
¹ Civil parishes of Kirkmichael (Perth), Glenisla (Angus) and ecclesiastic parish of Persie (Perth).

² Remaining parts of parishes of Moulin, Bendochy, Alyth, Blairgowrie (all Perth), Crathie & Braemar (Aberdeen) or Glenisla (Angus).

³ Other parishes in Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.

⁴ People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers or other similar terms. This column also includes railway workers living in temporary huts.

⁵ 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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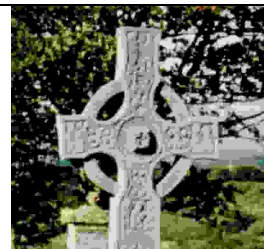
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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Gleann Sìdh & Gleann Ìl</i>	216	823	0	149	18.1 %
Individual communities					
<i>Dail Mhungaidh & Spideal Ghlinn Sìdh</i> (Dalmunzie & Spittal of Glenshee)	16	57	0	20	35.1 %
<i>Dail nan Clàr & Crothaigh</i> (Dalnaglar & Croy)	25	91	0	24	26.4 %
<i>Gleann Ìl</i> (Glen Isla)	72	262	0	18	6.9 %
<i>Bealach Lùnaig & Bail Shuas</i> (Blacklunans & Westerton)	21	88	0	18	20.5 %
<i>Gleann Caol Ruigh & Baile na Creige</i> (Glenkilrie & Craigton)	27	113	0	23	20.4 %
<i>Drochaid Challaidh & Parsaidh</i> (Bridge of Cally & Persie)	55	212	0	46	21.7 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	18	107	0	35	32.7 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	9	38	0	18	47.4 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	12	58	0	12	20.7 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	57	293	0	5	1.7 %
Households with no children (0-14)	120	327	0	79	24.2 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	59	319	0	43	13.5 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	36	117	0	28	23.9 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	10	30	0	5	16.7 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	18	61	0	9	14.8 %
Living on private means	12	35	0	9	25.7 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	9	39	0	9	23.1 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	71	222	0	46	20.7 %
Remaining occupations	1	0	0	0	-

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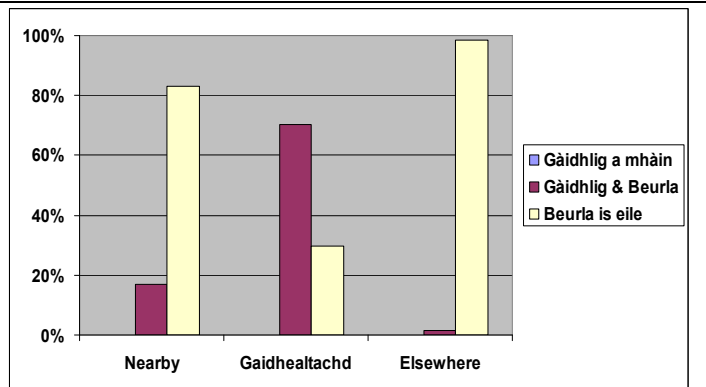
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Roughly 10 % of locally born residents spoke Gàidhlig. However, almost no-one with a birthplace outside the *Gaidhealtachd* was a Gàidhlig speaker.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Kirkmichael (Perthshire) or in the parishes of Moulin, Bendochy, Alyth, Blairgowrie (all Perthshire), Crathie & Braemar (Aberdeen) or Glenisla (Angus).

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. A significant number of Gàidhlig speaking residents was born in *Gleann Sidh* (Glen Shee). This underlines that the language had been a traditional means of communication in this most easterly district of the county of *Peairt* (Perth).
2. However, Gàidhlig-speakers enumerated in *Gleann Ìl* (Glen Isla) in 1891 (with one exception) originated all from outside the area. The only “locally born” Gàidhlig speaker found was a 53-year-old schoolmaster living in Folda post office. It is highly likely that he had learned the language as an adult. The *Aonghas* (Angus) dialect of Gàidhlig had disappeared a century earlier from the glens around *Gleann Ìl* (Glen Isla) and *Gleann Chlàbhaidh* (Glen Clova).
3. In original census report terms, the district had a population of 895 persons of all ages. 154 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English”. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 17.2 %. This figure was a slight under-estimate of 0.9 % of the figures of the usually resident population.