

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 029

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**Area:** *Srath Chonainn & Gleann Oirrin (Strathconon & Glen Orrin): Càrnach, Inbhir Chòmhrainn, Monar, Sgàrd Ruaidh, A'Ghlaic Odhar, Pòrainn, An Srathan Mòr & Dail Breac*

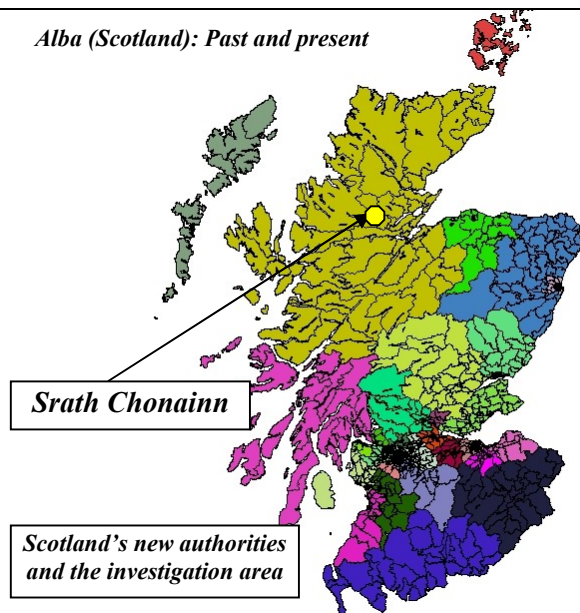
(Names of locations on census forms: Carnoch, Blarnabee, Inverchoran, Glenorrin, Monar, Glenuaig, Corriefeoil, Corrygivick, Scardroy, Glenmeanie, Craigton, Cranich, Drumfearn, Auchlorachan, Glackour, Drumonreach, Balnault, Curin, Glenmarksie, Bridgend, Dalnacroich, Porin, Millton, Fearn Park, Strathanmore, Dalbreck)

**Number of households:** 60      **Population present at census night:** 249

**Share of resident population (aged 3 years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 74.7 %

| County          | Civil parish | Registration district | Enumeration district number | Census form pages |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Ross & Cromarty | Urray        | Carnoch               | 1                           | 1 - 2             |
|                 | Contin       |                       | 2                           | 1 - 5             |
|                 | Fodderty     |                       | 3                           | 1 - 5             |

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

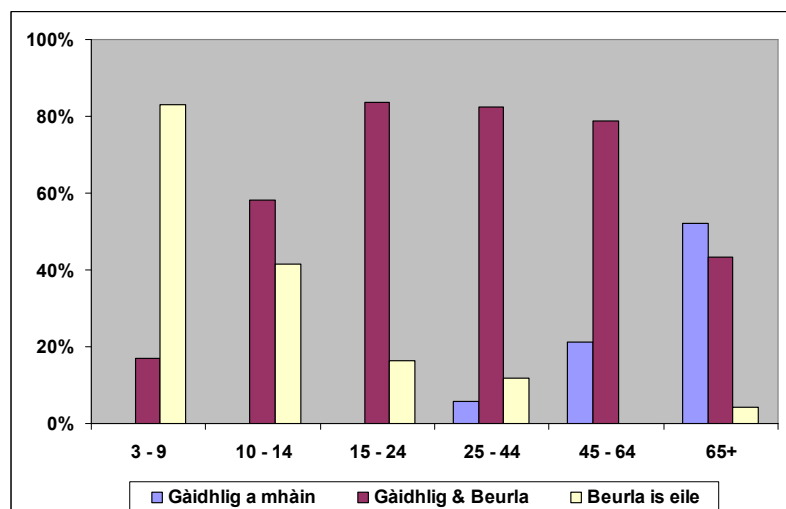
Three quarters of the usually resident population spoke the traditional language in this district. *Gàidhlig* was only a minority issue among the very young. Even a handful of monolingual speakers remained especially among the elderly.

Places with highest incidence of *Gàidhlig*-speaking were of course to be found in the upper parts of *Srath Chonainn* and *Gleann Oirrin* with four fifths of the population speaking the language.

## Area description:

The district is situated in the mountainous part of *Ros an Ear* (Easter Ross) and was once known as the parish of *Càrnach* (Carnoch). It covers settlements and dwellings in the valleys of *Srath Chonainn* (Strathconon), *Gleann Oirrin* (Glen Orrin) and *Gleann Mhonair* (Glen Monar).

Besides a few fertile spots on the valley ground the country had been given up to sheep and game. Most of the original population had been driven out during the notorious "Highland Clearances" decades earlier.



**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>4</sup> | Total <sup>5</sup>               | Gàidhlig  | Gàidhlig & English | Gàidhlig speakers (%) |
| <b>Age</b>                                 |                       |           |             |                            |                                  |           |                    |                       |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>249</b>            | <b>15</b> | <b>1</b>    | <b>4</b>                   | <b>229</b>                       | <b>25</b> | <b>146</b>         | <b>74.7 %</b>         |
| <b>3-4</b>                                 | <b>10</b>             |           | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>10</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>           | <b>0.0 %</b>          |
| <b>5-9</b>                                 | <b>31</b>             |           | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>31</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>7</b>           | <b>22.6 %</b>         |
| <b>10-14</b>                               | <b>24</b>             |           | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>24</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>14</b>          | <b>58.3 %</b>         |
| <b>15-24</b>                               | <b>43</b>             |           | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>43</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>36</b>          | <b>83.7 %</b>         |
| <b>25-44</b>                               | <b>54</b>             |           | <b>1</b>    | <b>2</b>                   | <b>51</b>                        | <b>3</b>  | <b>42</b>          | <b>88.2 %</b>         |
| <b>45-64</b>                               | <b>49</b>             |           | <b>0</b>    | <b>2</b>                   | <b>47</b>                        | <b>10</b> | <b>37</b>          | <b>100 %</b>          |
| <b>65+</b>                                 | <b>23</b>             |           | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>23</b>                        | <b>12</b> | <b>10</b>          | <b>95.7 %</b>         |
| <b>Gender</b>                              |                       |           |             |                            |                                  |           |                    |                       |
| <b>Female</b>                              | <b>126</b>            | <b>6</b>  | <b>1</b>    | <b>2</b>                   | <b>117</b>                       | <b>14</b> | <b>70</b>          | <b>71.8 %</b>         |
| <b>Male</b>                                | <b>123</b>            | <b>9</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>2</b>                   | <b>112</b>                       | <b>11</b> | <b>76</b>          | <b>77.7 %</b>         |
| <b>Place of birth</b>                      |                       |           |             |                            |                                  |           |                    |                       |
| <b>Born in parish<sup>1</sup></b>          | <b>132</b>            | <b>13</b> | <b>1</b>    | <b>2</b>                   | <b>116</b>                       | <b>16</b> | <b>62</b>          | <b>67.2 %</b>         |
| <b>In neighbouring parish<sup>2</sup></b>  | <b>61</b>             | <b>2</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>1</b>                   | <b>58</b>                        | <b>5</b>  | <b>51</b>          | <b>96.6 %</b>         |
| <b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>3</sup></b> | <b>37</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>1</b>                   | <b>36</b>                        | <b>4</b>  | <b>29</b>          | <b>91.7 %</b>         |
| <b>Other places</b>                        | <b>19</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>19</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>4</b>           | <b>21.1 %</b>         |

## Notes:

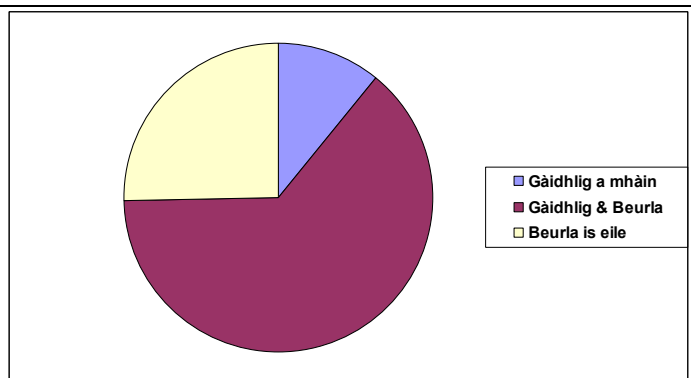
<sup>1</sup> Civil parishes of Urray, Contin or Fodderty (Ross & Cromarty).

<sup>2</sup> Killearnan, Urquhart & Logie Wester, Dingwall, Kiltearn, Kincardine, Lochbroom, Gairloch, Lochcarron, Lochalsh, Kintail (all Ross & Cromarty) or Kilmorack (Inverness).

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

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

<sup>5</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) 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 factsheets 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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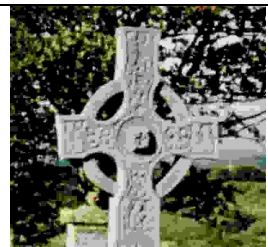
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|  | House-holds | Usually resident population (3+) |           |                    |                       |
|--|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
|  |             | Total                            | Gàidhlig  | Gàidhlig & English | Gàidhlig speakers (%) |
| <i>Srath Chonainn &amp; Gleann Oirinn</i>                                  | <b>60</b>   | <b>229</b>                       | <b>25</b> | <b>146</b>         | <b>74.7 %</b>         |
| <b>Individual communities</b>  |             |                                  |           |                    |                       |
| <i>Gleann Oirinn &amp; Monar</i><br>(Glen Orrin & Monar)                   | <b>6</b>    | <b>32</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>24</b>          | <b>75.0 %</b>         |
| <i>Sgàrd Ruaidh &amp; A'Ghlaic Odhar</i><br>(Scardroy & Glackour)          | <b>18</b>   | <b>55</b>                        | <b>10</b> | <b>34</b>          | <b>80.0 %</b>         |
| <i>Baile an Uillt &amp; Gleann Marcasaidh</i><br>(Balnault & Glen Marksie) | <b>9</b>    | <b>41</b>                        | <b>11</b> | <b>21</b>          | <b>78.0 %</b>         |
| <i>Dail na Crìoch &amp; Pòrainn</i><br>(Dalnacrioch & Porin)               | <b>13</b>   | <b>45</b>                        | <b>3</b>  | <b>30</b>          | <b>73.3 %</b>         |
| <i>Baile a'Mhuilinn &amp; Dail Breac</i><br>(Milton & Dalbreck)            | <b>14</b>   | <b>56</b>                        | <b>1</b>  | <b>37</b>          | <b>67.9 %</b>         |
| <b>Language of parents</b>   |             |                                  |           |                    |                       |
| <b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>                                      | <b>13</b>   | <b>81</b>                        | <b>1</b>  | <b>49</b>          | <b>61.7 %</b>         |
| <b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>                                     | <b>7</b>    | <b>34</b>                        | <b>4</b>  | <b>19</b>          | <b>67.6 %</b>         |
| <b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>  | <b>3</b>    | <b>18</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>9</b>           | <b>50.0 %</b>         |
| <b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>   | <b>1</b>    | <b>4</b>                         | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>           | <b>0.0 %</b>          |
| <b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>                                  | <b>36</b>   | <b>92</b>                        | <b>20</b> | <b>69</b>          | <b>96.7 %</b>         |
| <b>Occupation of head of household</b>                                     |             |                                  |           |                    |                       |
| <b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>                                    | <b>16</b>   | <b>74</b>                        | <b>12</b> | <b>46</b>          | <b>78.4 %</b>         |
| <b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>                                     | <b>10</b>   | <b>49</b>                        | <b>2</b>  | <b>32</b>          | <b>69.4 %</b>         |
| <b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>                                 | <b>3</b>    | <b>9</b>                         | <b>0</b>  | <b>4</b>           | <b>44.4 %</b>         |
| <b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>                                    | <b>6</b>    | <b>24</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>20</b>          | <b>83.3 %</b>         |
| <b>Living on private means</b>   | <b>2</b>    | <b>2</b>                         | <b>2</b>  | <b>0</b>           | <b>100 %</b>          |
| <b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>                                       | <b>3</b>    | <b>13</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>9</b>           | <b>69.2 %</b>         |
| <b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>                                 | <b>20</b>   | <b>58</b>                        | <b>9</b>  | <b>35</b>          | <b>75.9 %</b>         |
| <b>Remaining occupations</b>   | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                         | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>           | <b>-</b>              |

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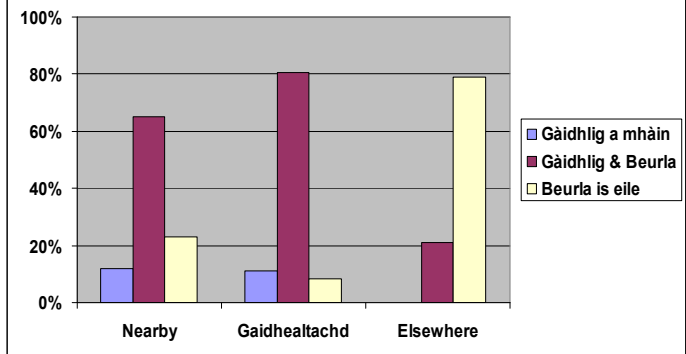
### Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The vast majority of locally born residents spoke *Gàidhlig*, some of them even did not speak English.

#### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Contin, Urray, Fodderty or in the parishes of Killearnan, Urquhart & Logie Wester, Dingwall. Kiltarn, Kincardine, Lochbroom, Gairloch, Lochcarron, Lochalsh, Kintail (all Ross & Cromarty) or Kilmorack (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. In original census report terms, the district had a population of 249 persons of all ages. 149 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 26 additional persons spoke “Gaelic only”. This led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 70.3 %. This figure was a slight under-estimate of 4.4 % of the figures of the usually resident population.