

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 033

Page 1 of 4

Area: *Asainn (Assynt): Innis Dubh, An Srathan, Bad na Bainne, Inbhir Chirceig & Cnoc nan Each*

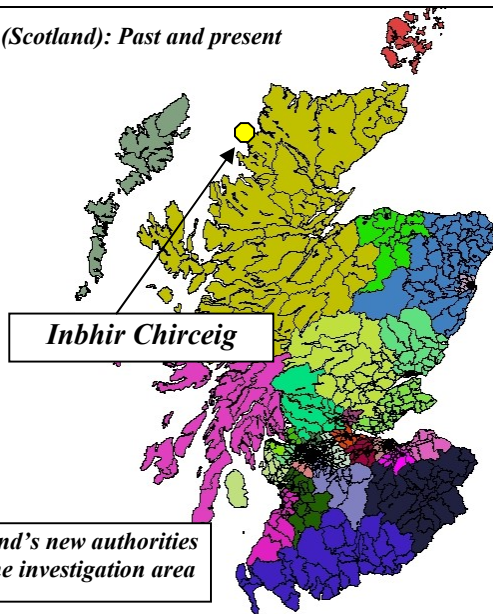
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Innisdhu, Strathan, Badnaban, Inverkirkaig, Cnockanach)

Number of households: 49 **Population present at census night:** 200

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 95.2 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Sutherland	Assynt	Stoer	1	1 - 12

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

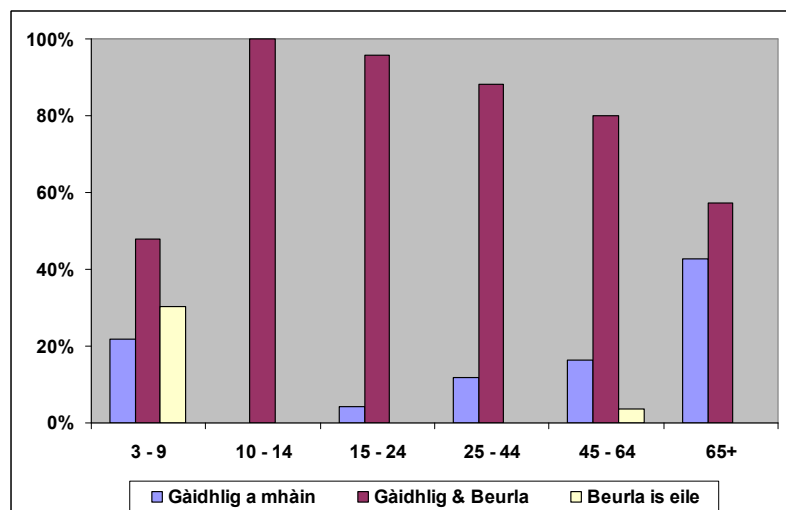
The local population was of course predominantly Gàidhlig-speaking in these crofting hamlets. Monolingual persons, however, were a small minority (making up less than a fifth of all speakers) and belonged mainly to the older generation.

Apart from one grocer family Gàidhlig was spoken right across the community in all occupations and age groups. The relatively low percentage in the 3-4 age group can be related to a few doubtful census returns (see also remarks on page 4). Except for the hamlet of *An Srathan* (Strathan) all crofting communities were exclusively Gàidhlig speaking.

Area description:

The coastal settlements around *Inbhir Chirceig* (Inverkirkaig) are situated between the remote *Coigeach* peninsula and the fishing harbour of *Loch an Inbhir* (Lochinver) to the north.

The people in this south-western part of *Cataibh* (Sutherland) were mainly occupied with crofting supported by some near-shore fishing.



Age profile: Share of population speaking (1) Gàidhlig, (2) Gàidhlig & English, or (3) no Gàidhlig at all

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 033

Page 2 of 4

Area: *Asainn (Assynt): Innis Dubh, Na Srathan, Bad na Bainne, Inbhir Chirceig & Cnoc nan Each*

	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. ³	Total ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	200	9	1	4	186	32	145	95.2 %
3-4	7	0	0	0	7	2	2	57.1 %
5-9	16	0	0	0	16	3	9	75.0 %
10-14	14	0	0	0	14	0	14	100 %
15-24	25	0	0	1	24	1	23	100 %
25-44	42	0	0	0	42	5	37	100 %
45-64	58	0	1	2	55	9	44	96.4 %
65+	29	0	0	1	28	12	16	100 %
Gender								
Female	103	2	0	3	98	18	74	93.9 %
Male	97	7	1	1	88	14	71	96.6 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	169	9	1	2	157	26	125	96.2 %
In neighbouring parish¹	9	0	0	0	9	5	4	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	18	0	0	1	17	1	15	94.1 %
Other places	4	0	0	1	3	0	1	33.3 %

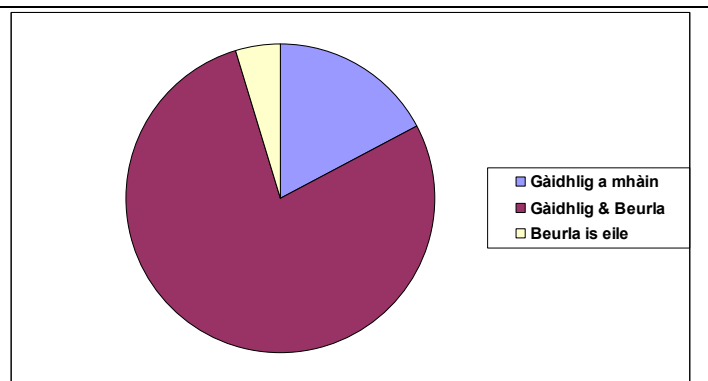
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Lochbroom, Kincardine (both Ross & Cromarty); Eddrachillis, Creich (both Sutherland).

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.

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 & 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.

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

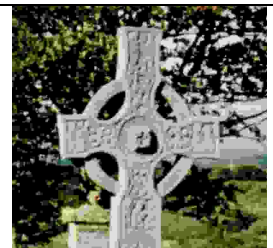
No. 033

Page 3 of 4

Area: *Asainn (Assynt): Innis Dubh, Na Srathan, Bad na Baine, Inbhir Chirceig & Cnoc nan Each*

	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Taobh Inbhir Chirceig	49	186	32	145	95.2 %
Individual communities					
<i>Innis Dubh</i> (Innisdhu)	1	3	0	3	100 %
<i>Na Srathan</i> (Strathan)	16	56	2	47	87.5 %
<i>Bad na Baine</i> (Badnaban)	9	28	6	22	100 %
<i>Inbhir Chirceig</i> (Inverkirkaig)	22	95	24	70	98.9 %
<i>Cnoc nan Each</i> (Knocknanach)	1	4	0	3	75.0 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	13	67	8	54	92.5 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	8	43	5	35	93.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	28	76	19	56	98.7 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	42	160	32	126	98.8 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	1	4	0	3	75.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	6	0	6	100 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	3	9	0	5	55.6 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	1	2	0	2	100 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	1	5	0	3	60.0 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

© Text and statistics: Copyright Kurt C. Duwe. All rights reserved except private and non-commercial use. Any other use has to be cleared by the author Kurt C. Duwe, Jägerstr. 120a, 21079 Hamburg, Germany (duwe@linguae-celticae.de) and it may also fall under restrictions of the Crown Copyright of census data. Statistics have been derived from 1891 census returns published by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS). The use of this material here is permitted under Licence No. C02W0003665. Crown Copyright of census data is acknowledged. The digital boundaries shown on the Scotland map are courtesy of Ordnance Survey as part of the Geography Products provided by GROS. Additional individual profiles may be downloaded from a special page on the Linguae Celticae website: http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP_english.htm



Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 033

Page 4 of 4

Area: *Asainn (Assynt): Innis Dubh, Na Srathan, Bad na Baine, Inbhir Chirceig & Cnoc nan Each*

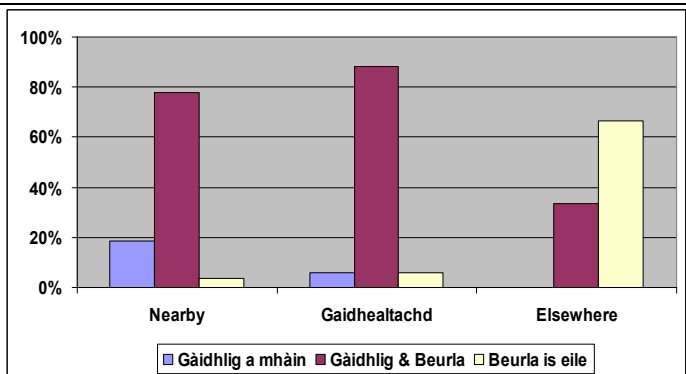
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Almost all residents born in the *Gaidhealtachd* spoke Gàidhlig although only a small minority was monolingual. Those born elsewhere were far less likely to speak the local tongue.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Assynt or in the adjacent parishes of Lochbroom and Kincardine (both Ross & Cromarty) or Eddrachillis and Creich (both Sutherland).

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. Just nine persons did not speak Gàidhlig. Some of them were part of a grocers' family from Midlothian. Three young children with local background were also counted as not speaking Gàidhlig. However, these children were unlikely genuinely "English only" speakers. All three could be traced in the 1901 census where they were recorded as "G&E" i.e. speaking both Gàidhlig and English 10 years later. Therefore, language transmission within families was still intact in the area during this period.
2. Official census figures in this western part of *Asainn* (Assynt) reported 148 bilingual inhabitants and 33 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 200 persons (90.5 %). The usually resident population consisted of 177 Gàidhlig-speakers (95.2 %) and just nine "non-speakers" of the local language.