

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 036

Page 1 of 4

Area: *Gleann Seile (Glenshiel): Inbhir Seile, Allt a'Chruinn, Carn Gorm, A'Mhormhoich, Innis a'Chrò, Gleann Lichd, Ceann Lochan, Tòrr Laoighseach, Lùib a'Mhàim, Gleann Loinne, Drochaid Seile, Achadh nan Gart, Lùib an Eòrna, Cluanaidh*

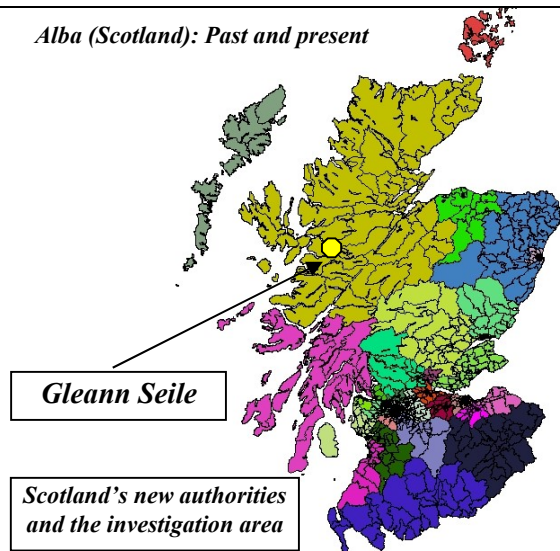
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Shielhouse, Uchantoul, Invershiel, Aultachroin, Carngorm, Morvich, Inchroe, Glenlichd, Ceannlochan, Torlysich, Maligan, Essnanarm, Luibabboheich, Luibamhaim, Glenlyne, Shiel Bridge, Achnagart, Luibaneorna, Cluny)

Number of households: 53 **Population present at census night:** 218

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 97.2 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Glenshiel	Glenshiel	2	2 (part) – 4
			3	1 - 5
			4	1 - 2
			5	1 - 3

Alba (Scotland): Past and present

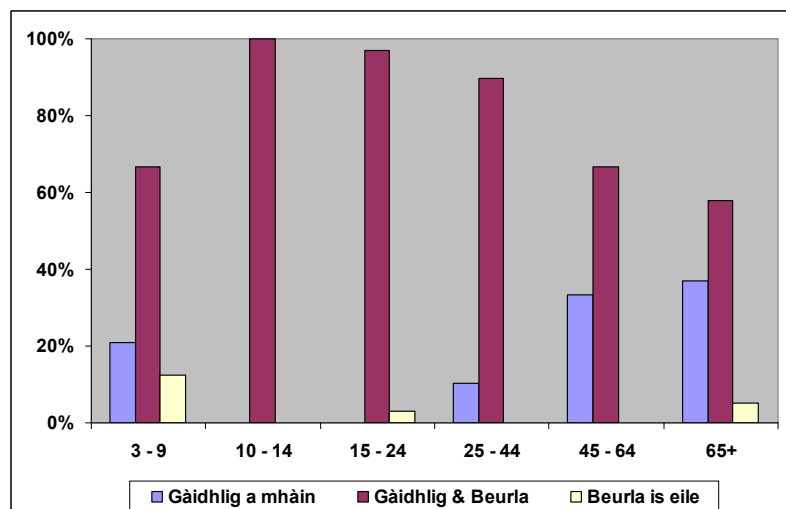


State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

Almost all residents spoke Gàidhlig irrespective of their place of birth. More than one sixth of all inhabitants was still monolingual. Many children and people older than 45 years did not speak English. Generally local men than women were more likely to be bilingual. All local hamlets were almost exclusively Gàidhlig-speaking with the sole exception of *Drochaid Seile* (Shiel Bridge) where still 83.3 % of residents spoke Gàidhlig.

Area description:

The district is situated at the west-coast of the Highlands and incorporates the townships between *Inbhir Seile* and *Innis a'Chrò* at the head of *Loch Dhubhthaich* (Loch Duich) as well as the vast mountain area around *Gleann Seile* (Glenshiel) and *Gleann Loinne* (Glen Loyne). Besides a few crofters and sheep farming managers people were mostly engaged as shepherds and gamekeepers.



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

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Page 2 of 4

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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	218	15	0	24	179	29	145	97.2 %
3-4	6	0	0	1	5	2	1	60.0 %
5-9	19	0	0	0	19	3	15	94.7 %
10-14	21	0	0	2	19	0	19	100 %
15-24	42	0	0	10	32	0	31	96.9 %
25-44	57	0	0	8	49	5	44	100 %
45-64	39	0	0	3	36	12	24	100 %
65+	19	0	0	0	19	7	11	94.7 %
Gender								
Female	99	4	0	4	91	21	65	94.5 %
Male	119	11	0	20	88	8	80	100 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	109	13	0	7	89	16	69	95.5 %
In neighbouring parish¹	22	0	0	3	19	3	16	100 %
Gàidhealtachd elsewhere²	76	2	0	6	68	10	57	98.5 %
Other places	11	0	0	8	3	0	3	100 %

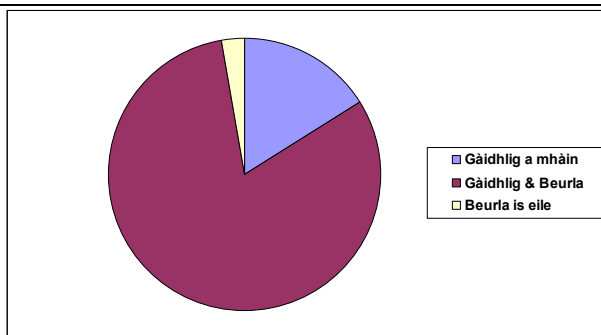
Notes:

¹Parishes of Kintail and Urray (both Ross & Cromarty) or Glenelg, Urquhart & Glenmoriston, Kilmorack or Kilmonivaig (all Inverness-shire).

²Other parishes in Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.

³People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers or other similar terms.

⁴Number 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.

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Page 3 of 4

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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Gleann Seile</i>	53	179	29	145	97.2 %
Individual communities					
<i>Inbhir Seile</i> (Invershiel)	12	38	3	35	100 %
<i>Allt a'Chruinn</i> (Aultachroin)	9	36	13	23	100 %
<i>Carn Gorm</i> (Carn-gorm)	6	29	5	23	96.6 %
<i>A'Mhormhoich</i> (Morvich)	5	8	1	7	100 %
<i>Innis a'Chrò</i> (Inchroe)	3	6	1	5	100 %
<i>Gleann Loinne</i> (Glen Loyne)	7	27	3	22	92.6 %
<i>Drochaid Seile</i> (Shiel Bridge)	3	6	2	3	83.3 %
<i>Achadh nan Gart</i> (Achnangart)	5	14	1	12	92.9 %
<i>Cluanaidh</i> (Cluanie)	3	15	0	15	100 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	16	81	6	73	97.5 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	7	33	5	27	97.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	30	65	18	45	96.9 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	12	56	10	44	96.4 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	12	47	3	42	95.7 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	2	3	0	2	66.7 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	7	28	7	21	100 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	4	20	2	18	100 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	10	19	7	12	100 %
Remaining occupations	1	6	0	6	100 %

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Page 4 of 4

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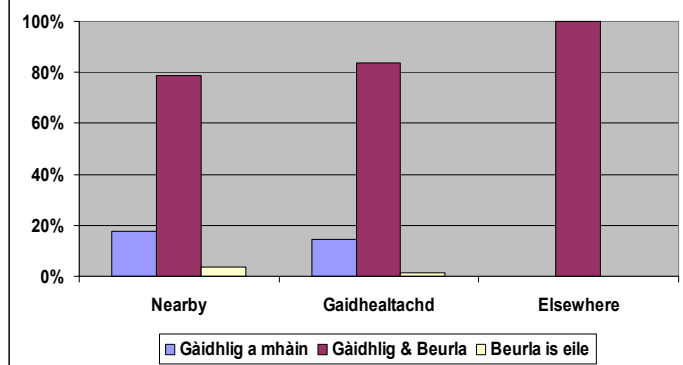
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The ability to speak Gàidhlig was almost universal and not dependent on the place of birth. Those who did not speak English, however, were born in the *Gaidhealtachd*.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Glenshiel or in the adjacent parishes of Kintail and Urray (both Ross & Cromarty) or Glenelg, Urquhart & Glenmoriston, Kilmorack or Kilmonivaig (all Inverness-shire).

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. There were five female persons in the usually resident population who were reported as not speaking Gàidhlig. Among these was of course the public-schoolteacher from Creich in Sutherland. The remaining residents with no “G&E” or “G” marks on their registration sheets were a 70-year-old crofter’s wife and three young girls aged between 3 and 6. Whether these census returns were really unable to speak the local language, however, remains doubtful. More probably they were usually not speaking Gàidhlig but could do so.
2. In original census report terms, the whole community in total had a population of 218 persons of all ages. 162 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 29 persons were reported as monolingual Gàidhlig speakers. These figures led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 88.0 %. A comparison with the more realistic statistics of this factsheet reveals that this percentage was a significant under-estimate of 9.2 % caused by the inclusion of under-three olds and visitors in the official population base.