

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 044

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Area: *Arainn (Isle of Arran): Loch Raonasa, An Lagan, An Coileach Arannach, Baile Nodha, An Arthar, An Gleann, Baile Airigh, Coille Mhòr, Oran Beag, Creag Ruadh, Clach Orain, Cnoc an Locha & Ceann Locha*

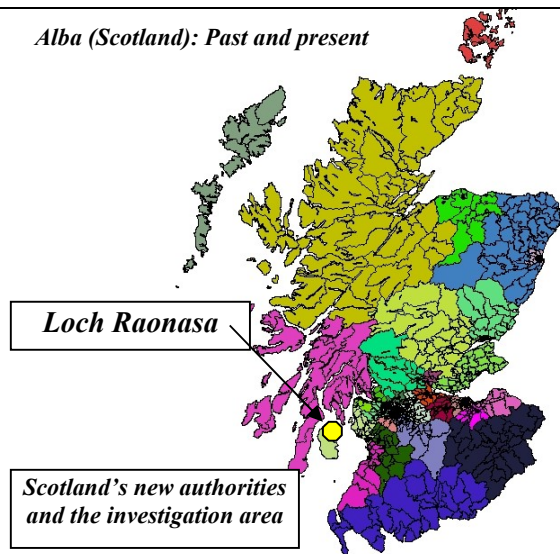
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Lochranza, Laggan, Cock, North Newton, South Newton, Narrachan, Glen, Ballarie, Colliemore, Orinbeg, Craig Roy, Clachorine, Knockanloch & Loch End)

Number of households: 74 **Population present at census night:** 273

Share of resident population (aged 3 years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: **78.5 %**

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Buteshire	Kilmory	Lochranza	1	2 (part) – 7
			2	10 - 17

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

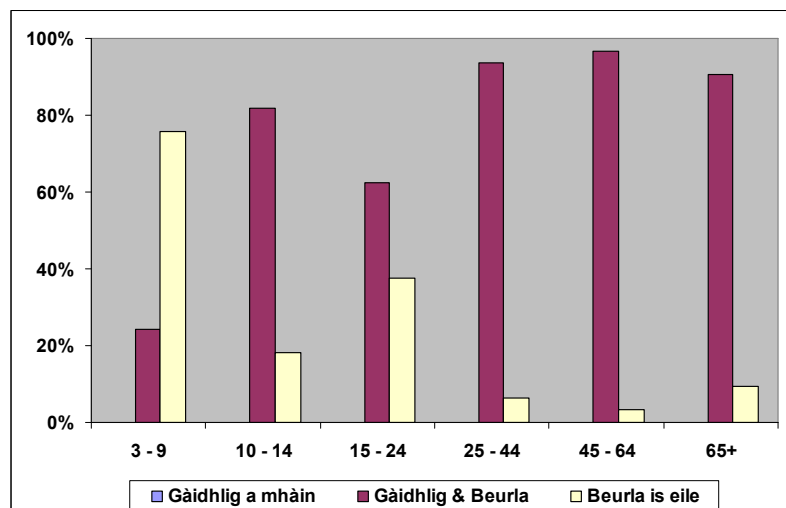
The community was overwhelmingly Gàidhlig speaking at this time. A majority of English monolingual persons was enumerated only among children younger than 10 years of age. The remaining “English only” residents were born mainly outside the *Gaidhealtachd*.

Between communities the percentage of Gàidhlig speakers ranged from 72 % in *Oran Beag* (Orinbeg) to 100 % at *Cnoc an Locha* (Knockanloch) and *Ceann Locha* (Kinloch).

Area description:

The area under consideration is situated at the northern end of the island of *Arainn* (Arran). As such it was part of the small county of *Siorrachd Bhòid* (Buteshire) in 1891. The small communities involved lined the shores of the sheltered bay of *Loch Raonasa* (Lochranza).

Many residents were basically concerned with fishing or shipping in general – apart from subsistence agriculture within the crofting system.



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 ⁵	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	273	16	0	6	251	0	197	78.5 %
3-4	11		0	0	11	0	2	18.2 %
5-9	22		0	0	22	0	6	27.3 %
10-14	34		0	1	33	0	27	81.8 %
15-24	42		0	2	40	0	25	62.5 %
25-44	62		0	0	62	0	58	93.5 %
45-64	63		0	1	62	0	60	96.8 %
65+	23		0	2	21	0	19	90.5 %
Gender								
Female	157	9	0	3	145	0	118	81.4 %
Male	116	7	0	3	106	0	79	74.5 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	189	15	0	1	173	0	149	86.1 %
In neighbouring parish¹	34	0	0	1	33	0	28	84.8 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	9	0	0	1	8	0	8	100 %
Other places	41	1	0	3	37	0	12	32.4 %

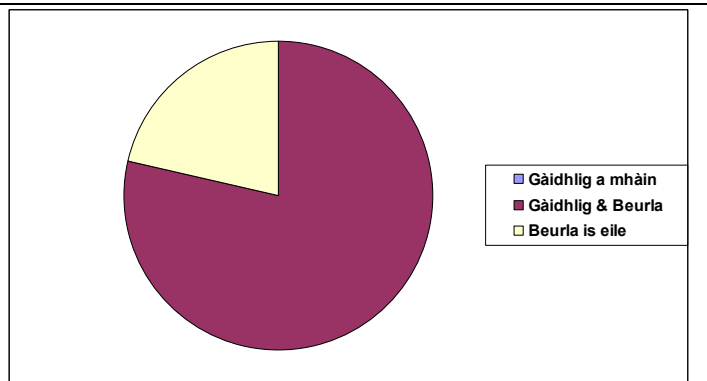
Notes:

¹ Civil parish of Kilbride (Buteshire).

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.

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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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Loch Raonasa</i>	74	251	0	197	78.5 %
Individual communities					
<i>Baile Nodha & An Lagan</i> (Newton & Laggan)	22	74	0	51	68.9 %
<i>An Arthar & An Gleann</i> (Narrachan & Glen)	8	33	0	26	78.8 %
<i>Coille Mhòr</i> (Colliemore)	2	6	0	5	83.3 %
<i>Oran Beag</i> (Orinbeg)	15	50	0	36	72.0 %
<i>Clach Orain</i> (Clachorine)	6	21	0	18	85.7 %
<i>Loch Raonasa</i> (Lochranza)	6	22	0	16	72.7 %
<i>Cnoc an Locha</i> (Knockanloch)	7	21	0	21	100 %
<i>Ceann Locha</i> (Kinloch)	8	24	0	24	100 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	19	94	0	73	77.7 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	11	41	0	28	68.3 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	1	6	0	0	0.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	43	110	0	96	87.3 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	37	130	0	103	79.2 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	3	10	0	4	40.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	2	10	0	8	80.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	6	15	0	9	60.0 %
Living on private means	2	6	0	3	50.0 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	3	14	0	12	85.7 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	21	66	0	58	87.9 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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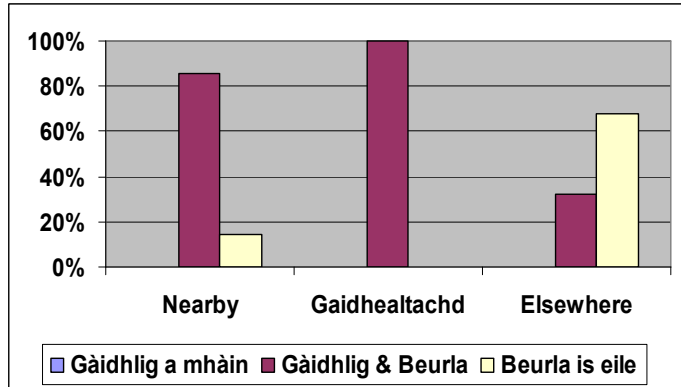
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Almost all locally born persons spoke Gàidhlig. About a third of residents born outside the *Gaidhealtachd* spoke Gàidhlig as well as English.

Notes:

¹ Born either in the parish of Kilmory (Buteshire) or in the parish of Kilbride (Buteshire).

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. In original census report terms, the district had a population of 273 persons of all ages. In total 200 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English”. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 73.3 %. This figure was a moderate under-estimate of 5.2 % of the figures of the usually resident population.