

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 047

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**Area: Lus (Luss): Lus, Innis nam Manach, Innis Lònaig, An Ros Dubh, Achadh an Tulaich, Am Blàr Glas, An Ros Meadhonach, Allt a'Chlaidheimh, Allt an Fheàrna & Baile an Dùin**

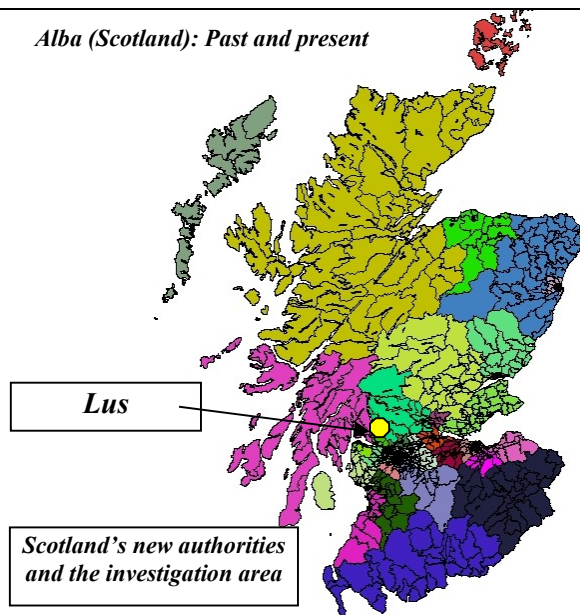
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Luss Village, Inchtavannach, Inchlonaig, Aldochlay, Bandry, Rossdhu, Arnburn, Midross, Duchlage, Nether Ross, Auchentullich, Polnaberich, Shantron, Meikle Dumfin, Blairnyle, Bannachra, Blairglas, Balendoune)

**Number of households: 100    Population present at census night: 471**

**Share of resident population (aged 3 years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 13.0 %**

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Dunbartonshire	Luss	Luss	3	1 – 16
			4	1 - 9

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

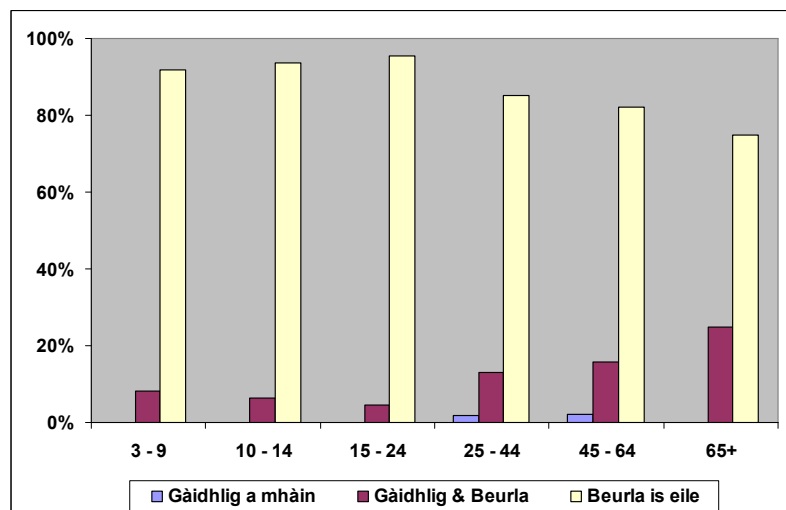
In contrast to the neighbouring areas further north Gàidhlig was no longer an inherent part of the local culture in 1891. Most of the enumerated Gàidhlig speakers in Lus originated from other Highland districts. For example, gamekeepers and shepherds were found to be predominantly Gàidhlig speaking in the census.

In the village itself the traditional language was rarely spoken in this period. The few Gàidhlig speaking households were more confined to locations in the countryside nearby.

## Area description:

This factsheet is concerned with the southern part of the parish of Lus (Luss) on the shores of Loch Laomuin (Loch Lomond).

Apart from the small village of same name this was largely sheep grazing and shepherding land dominated by a handful of estates. Two inhabited islands in the loch were part of the district which belonged to the county of Dùn Breatainn (Dunbartonshire) in 1891.



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>3</sup>	Total <sup>5</sup>	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	471	25	1	44	401	4	48	13.0 %
<b>3-4</b>	22		0	3	19	0	1	5.3 %
<b>5-9</b>	48		0	7	41	0	4	9.8 %
<b>10-14</b>	51		1	5	45	0	3	6.7 %
<b>15-24</b>	73		0	8	65	0	3	4.6 %
<b>25-44</b>	118		0	12	106	2	14	15.1 %
<b>45-64</b>	95		0	6	89	2	14	18.0 %
<b>65+</b>	39		0	3	36	0	9	25.0 %
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	247	12	1	19	215	3	21	11.2 %
<b>Male</b>	224	13	0	25	186	1	27	15.1 %
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	202	18	0	5	179	0	7	3.9 %
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	22	0	0	1	21	0	6	28.6 %
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	38	0	0	3	35	4	27	88.6 %
<b>Other places</b>	209	7	1	35	166	0	8	4.8 %

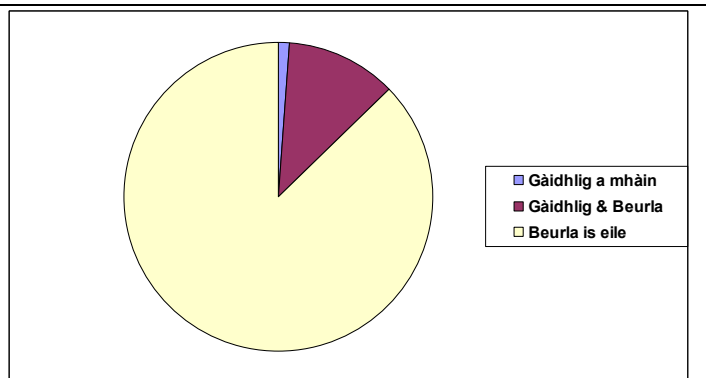
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Civil parishes of Arrochar, Rhu or Kilmarnock (all Dunbartonshire).

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

<sup>3</sup> People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers or other similar terms. This column includes also 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) Beurla is eile

## 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](http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP_english.htm).

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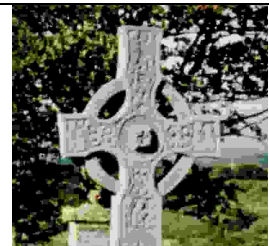
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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Lus</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>13.0 %</b>
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Lus (Luss)</i>	33	110	0	7	6.4 %
<i>Innis nam Manach &amp; Innis Lònaig (Inchtavannach &amp; Inchlonaig)</i>	2	13	0	3	23.1 %
<i>Allt a'Chlaidheimh (Aldochlay)</i>	15	55	4	4	14.5 %
<i>Bàn Tràigh &amp; An Ros Dubh (Bandry &amp; Rosdhu)</i>	17	62	0	17	27.4 %
<i>Ros Meadhonach &amp; Achadh an Tulaich (Midross &amp; Auchintullich)</i>	10	58	0	4	6.9 %
<i>Dùn Fionn (Dumfin)</i>	23	103	0	13	12.6 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	4	28	0	17	60.7 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	3	12	0	3	25.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	5	28	0	5	17.9 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	26	142	0	4	2.8 %
Households with no children (0-14)	62	191	4	19	12.0 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	19	128	0	6	4.7 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	4	27	0	16	59.3 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	7	18	0	0	0.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	18	69	0	6	8.7 %
Living on private means	3	5	0	0	0.0 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	17	47	3	5	17.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	32	107	1	15	15.0 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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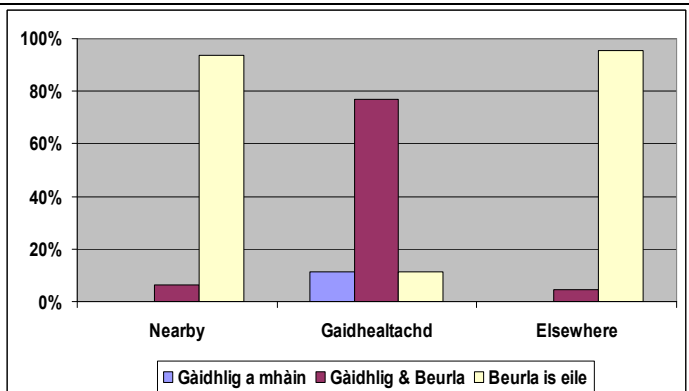
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Only a few locally born people spoke the language. Most of the Gàidhlig speakers in the area originated from the *Gaidhealtachd* itself including the four “Gaelic only” speakers.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Luss (Dunbartonshire) or in the parishes of Arrochar, Rhu or Kilmarnock (all Dunbartonshire).

<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 471 persons of all ages. 50 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and four persons did not speak English. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 11.5 %. This figure was a slight underestimate of 1.5 % of the figures of the usually resident population.
2. Four persons were enumerated who did speak Gàidhlig but no English. They lived in or near *Allt a'Chlaidheimh* (Aldochlay). A housekeeper and his two sisters from Highland Perthshire and a quarrier from Appin were found in this category. It is very likely that they had some smattering of English due to the intercourse with their mostly monolingual neighbours. Apparently, they preferred to use their mother tongue when answering queries by the census enumerator.