

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 049

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Area: *Srath Uachail* (Strath Oykel): *Achadh na h-Uamhach, Cill Mo Chalmaig, Achadh na h-Annaid, Langail, A' Bhruthach, An Dùn, An t-Òb, Inbhir Uachail, Àmait, Srath Mùillidh, Drochaid Uachail, Baile a' Phuill, Creagan, An Lùb Chruaidh, Creagaidh, Allt nan Cealgach*

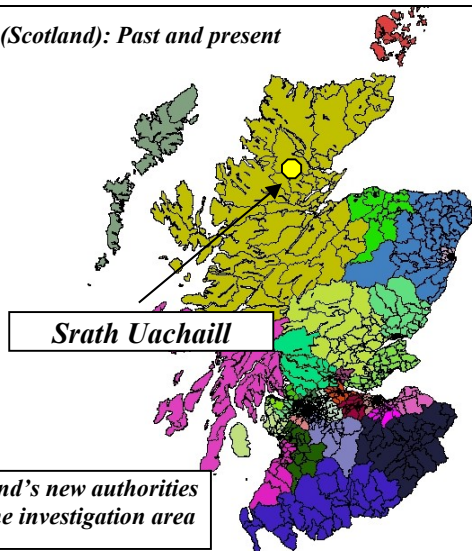
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Newton, Birchfield, Viewfield, Kilmachalmag, Achue, Recroy, Achnahannet, Baddarach, Langwell, Brae, Doune, Oape, Inchnadamph, Inveroykel, Ocho Dallas, Oape Roadside, Amat, Knockdamph, Corrimullie, Oykel Bridge, Balphuill, Craggan, Inchnabirag, Inchnacarach, Loubcroy, Loubreavach, Craggie, Altcalag, Strathsheasgach, Aultnacealgach)

Number of households: 72 Population present at census night: 339

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 87.8 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Kincardine	Strathoykel	1	1 – 6
			2	1 – 5
			3	1
			4	1-4

Alba (Scotland): Past and present

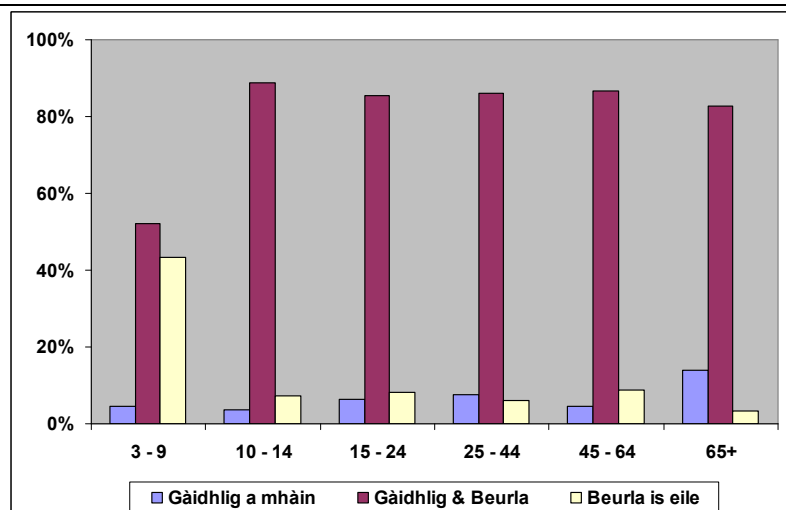


State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

The language was spoken predominantly among the locally born population. Apart from young children this was apparent in all age groups. All small communities were overwhelmingly Gàidhlig-speaking with the only exception of *Drochaid Uachail* (Oykel Bridge) with its inn and neighbouring *An Lùb Chruaidh* (Lubcroy).

Area description:

The inland district is situated in the northern part of *Ros is Cromba* (Ross & Cromarty) and encompasses the upper reaches of *Abhainn Uachail* (River Oykel). Small crofting hamlets and a few remote habitations of shepherds and gamekeepers were rather isolated within this vast Highland area.



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 ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	339	14	1	30	294	19	239	87.8 %
3-4	12	0	0	1	11	1	5	54.5 %
5-9	35	0	1	2	32	1	18	59.4 %
10-14	28	0	0	1	27	1	24	92.6 %
15-24	67	0	0	5	62	4	53	91.9 %
25-44	76	0	0	11	65	5	56	93.8 %
45-64	78	0	0	10	68	3	59	91.2 %
65+	29	0	0	0	29	4	24	96.6 %
Gender								
Female	175	7	0	13	155	14	127	91.0 %
Male	164	7	1	17	139	5	112	84.2 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	201	13	1	3	185	8	154	88.0 %
In neighbouring parish¹	59	0	0	7	52	6	43	94.2 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	43	0	0	8	35	5	27	91.4 %
Other places	36	1	0	12	23	0	15	65.2 %

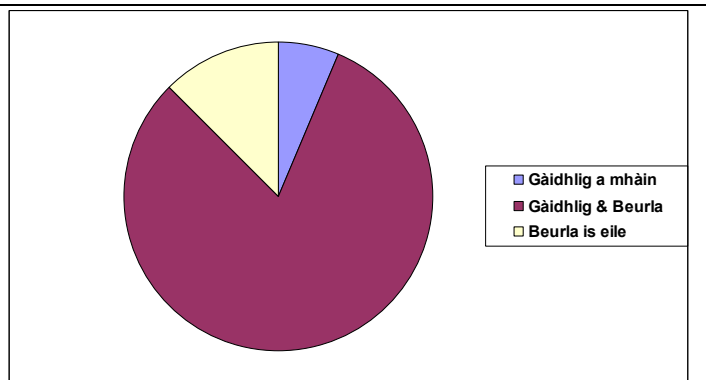
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Creich and Assynt (both Sutherland), Lochbroom, Edderton, Rosskeen, Alness, & Dingwall (all Ross & Cromarty).

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.

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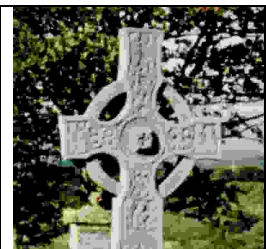
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Srath Uachail</i>	72	294	19	239	87.8%
Individual communities					
<i>Achadh na h-Uamhach & Cill Mo Chalmaig</i> (Birchfield & Kilmachalmag)	14	54	1	47	88.9 %
<i>Achadh na h-Annaid</i> (Achnahannet)	10	35	2	32	97.1 %
<i>Bad Daraich</i> (Baddarach)	5	27	0	25	92.6 %
<i>Langail, A'Bhruthach & An Dùn</i> (Langwell, Brae & Doune)	14	59	0	54	91.5 %
<i>An t-Òb & Inbhir Uachail</i> (Oape & Inveroykel)	11	31	0	31	100 %
<i>Àmait & Srath Mùillidh</i> (Amat & Strath Mulzie)	4	16	9	6	93.8 %
<i>Drochaid Uachail & An Lùb Chruaidh</i> (Oykel Bridge & Lubcrov)	11	57	6	31	64.9 %
<i>Srath Seasgach & Allt nan Cealgach</i> (Strathsheasgach & Altnacealgach)	3	15	1	13	93.3 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	17	119	5	98	86.6 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	7	29	1	25	89.7 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	2	13	0	4	30.8 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	46	133	13	112	94.0 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	34	144	1	137	95.8 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	15	79	11	49	75.9 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	4	14	2	8	71.4 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	3	11	0	11	100 %
Living on private means	7	15	2	11	86.7 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	2	8	0	6	75.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	7	23	3	17	87.0 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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Additional individual profiles may be downloaded from a special page on the Linguae Celticae website:
http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP_english.htm



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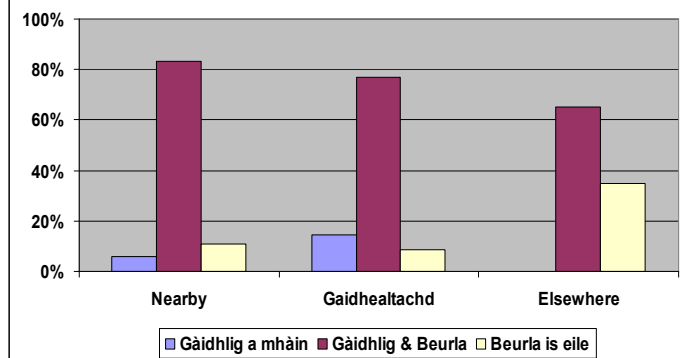
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was apparently used very intensively. Even most residents born outside the *Gaidhealtachd* spoke Gàidhlig.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Kincardine or in the adjacent parishes of Creich and Assynt (both Sutherland), Lochbroom, Edderton, Rosskeen, Alness, & Dingwall (all Ross & Cromarty).

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. Among the grown-up residents (older than 14 years) there were just 16 people who did not speak Gàidhlig. These English monoglots were mainly born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. This “community” was mainly made up of two families of shepherds (born in Lanarkshire and Fife). In addition, two farm workers from Berwickshire and Warwick (England) and an illustrious society from Glasgow and England was enumerated in this district: a solicitor, an author and his publisher!
2. Roughly 50 % of local children were reported as not speaking Gàidhlig at the time. However, 16 of these could be traced 10 years later in the 1901 census. 11 returns produced a “G&E” mark then. Accordingly inter-generational language transmission had been effective at a considerable degree in this period!
3. Official census figures in this district reported 259 bilingual inhabitants and 21 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 339 persons (82.6 %). The usually resident population consisted of 258 Gàidhlig-speakers (87.8 %) and 37 “non-speakers” of the local language. This was an under-estimation by 5.2 % compared with the more precise definition based on the usually resident population.