

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 055

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Area: *An Ros Meadhonach (Mid Ross): Loch Luinncheirt, Grùididh, Bad an Fhliùchaidh, Achadh an Uillt, Srath Brain, An Cnoc Bàn, Achadh na Sìne, Leathad Ghobhainn, Inbhir, Loch a'Chroisg, Bad a'Mhanaich, An t-Allt Dearg & Fanaich*

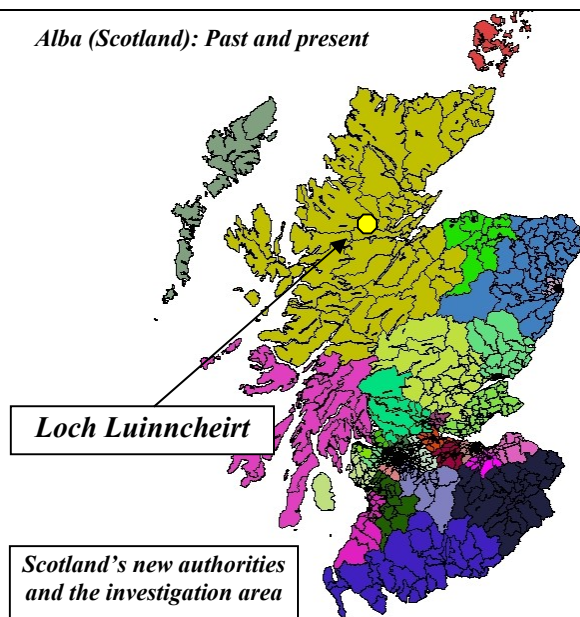
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Lochluichart, Arrileterach, Grudie, Bhadluchie, Cashachan, Achanalt, Strathbran, Knockbain, Dosmuchran, Cullin, Camashie, Druimdu, Achnasheen, Ledgowan, Inver, Luibvaragan, Lochrosque, Leanich, Badavanich, Cabuie, Strathcromble, Aultdearg & Fannich)

Number of households: 63 **Population present at census night:** 347

Share of resident population (aged three years +) speaking Gàidhlig: 71.3 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Contin	Kinlochluichart	3	1 - 9
			4	1 - 11
			5	1 - 2

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

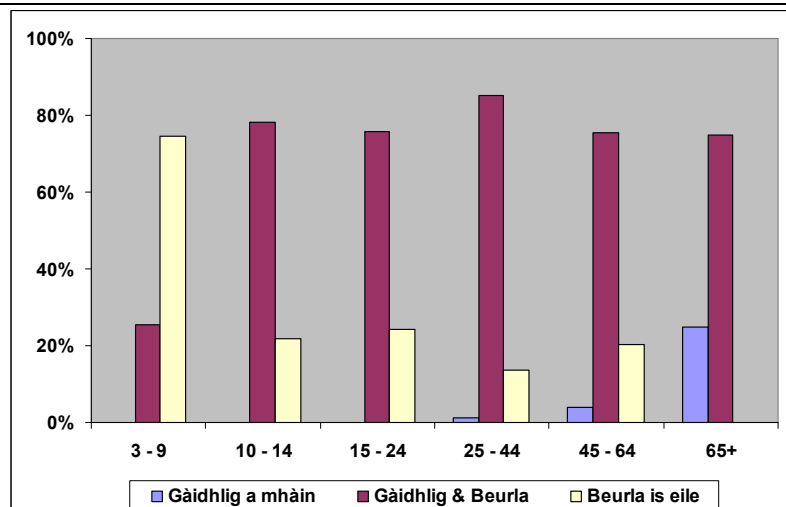
The language was spoken by the vast majority of residents who were born locally – except children up to the age of 9 years. There was, however, a large proportion of residents who originated from the Lowlands or even England and in most cases had no knowledge of the local language.

Strongest Gàidhlig speaking communities were found in *Srath Brain* (Strathbran) and around *Loch a'Chroisg* (Loch Rosque) with more than 75 % of speakers. In other places railway workers and Lowland shepherds had already “diluted” the language community.

Area description:

The district described is situated right in the centre of the ancient county of *Ros & Cromba* (Ross & Cromarty) on the railway line between the tiny hamlets of *Loch Luinncheirt* (Lochluichart) and *Achadh na Sìne* (Achnasheen).

At the time of the census this vast area was already largely “cleared” from the native population and the few residents were mostly dependent on work provided by the local estates either as servants, gamekeepers, or shepherds.



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	347	31	0	37	279	5	194	71.3 %
3-4	15		0	0	15	0	2	13.3 %
5-9	36		0	0	36	0	11	30.6 %
10-14	35		0	3	32	0	25	78.1 %
15-24	73		0	15	58	0	44	75.9 %
25-44	90		0	9	81	1	69	86.4 %
45-64	59		0	10	49	2	37	79.6 %
65+	8		0	0	8	2	6	100 %
Gender								
Female	172	15	0	8	149	4	97	67.8 %
Male	175	16	0	29	130	1	97	75.4 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	135	22	0	5	108	3	74	71.3 %
In neighbouring parish¹	64	1	0	13	50	1	46	94.0 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	77	5	0	8	64	1	54	85.9 %
Other places	71	3	0	11	57	0	20	35.1 %

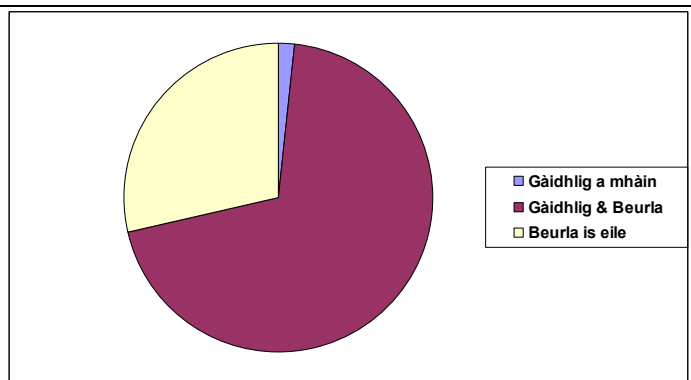
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Lochbroom, Lochcarron, Gairloch, Kincardine, Urray and Fodderty (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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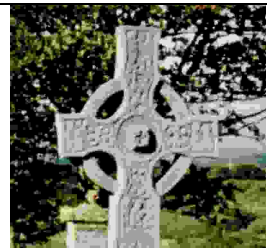
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Loch Luinncheirt & Achadh na Sìne	82	349	5	213	62.5 %
Individual communities					
<i>Loch Luinncheirt</i> (Loch Luichart)	12	56	0	37	66.1 %
<i>Srath Brain & Grùididh</i> (Strathbran & Grudie)	23	93	3	69	77.4 %
<i>Achadh na Sìne</i> (Achnasheen)	9	48	0	31	64.6 %
<i>Leathad Ghobhainn & Loch a'Chroisg</i> (Ledgowan & Loch Rosque)	14	62	1	46	75.8 %
<i>Allt Dearg & Fanaich</i> (Aultdearg & Fannich)	5	20	1	11	60.0 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	25	154	0	112	72.7 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	4	17	1	15	94.1 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	2	0	1	50.0 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	5	24	0	3	12.5 %
Households with no children (0-14)	28	82	4	63	81.7 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	5	15	0	14	93.3 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	17	95	3	67	73.7 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	8	39	0	15	38.5 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	1	2	0	2	100 %
Living on private means	1	7	0	3	42.9 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	5	26	1	21	84.6 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	26	95	1	72	76.8 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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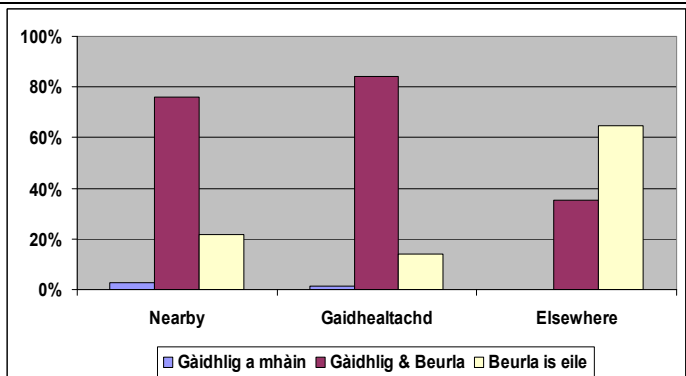
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Most persons born outside the Gaidhealtachd did not speak Gàidhlig. The remaining English monolinguals were mostly younger than 10 years of age.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Contin or in the parishes of Lochbroom, Lochcarron, Gairloch, Kincardine, Urray and Fodderty (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 Gaidhealtachd², or (3) elsewhere

Remarks:

1. Five usually resident persons in the district were enumerated as speaking Gàidhlig but not English. The youngest monolingual Gàidhlig speaker was a 29-year-old kitchen maid from *Loch Carrann* (Lochcarron) on the west coast. In addition, a 75 year old shepherd and his 60 year old wife, a 46 year old laundress and a 67 year old widow did not speak English according to the census files of 1891.
2. In original census report terms, the district had a population of 347 persons of all ages. 222 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and five persons spoke “Gaelic only”. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 65.4 %. This percentage was a very significant under-estimate of 5.9 % compared with the more realistic figures considering only the usually resident population.