

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 058

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Area: Crothaigh & Dail Chrois (Croy & Dalcross): Càrn Glas, Tir fo Grèine, Crothaigh, Crothaigh Beag, Tuilm, An t-Ath Dubh, Cnoc na Bà, Baile na Buaille, Cantra, Bràigh Cantra, Mòine Dail Gramaiche, An Cnoc Cruaidh, An Cnoc Liath & Dail Chrois

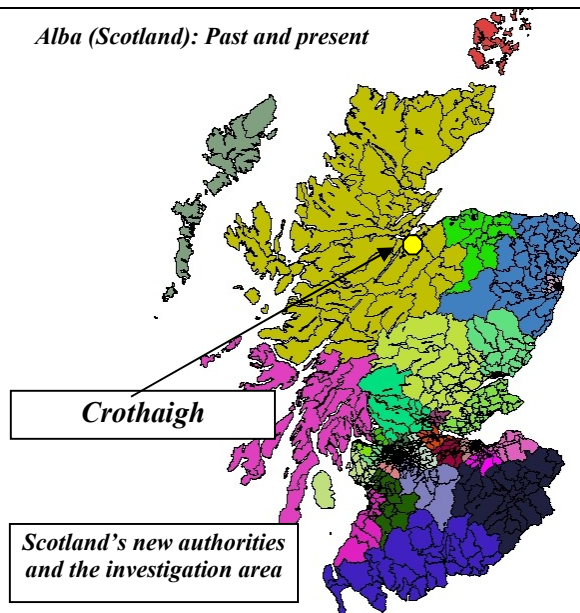
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Wester Cairnglass, Tirfogrein, Croy Village, Little Croy, Holme Rose, Mains of Croy, Blackford, Knocknaba, Balnabual, Cantray, Brae of Cantray, Dalgramich Moor, Little Dalcross, Glebe of Dalcross, Hardhill, Greyhill & Dalcross)

Number of households: 74 Population present at census night: 335

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 48.9 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Inverness	Croy & Dalcross	Croy & Dalcross	3	1 – 4(part), 5, 6(part), 8 - 15
Nairn	Croy	Croy & Dalcross	3	4(part),6(part),7

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

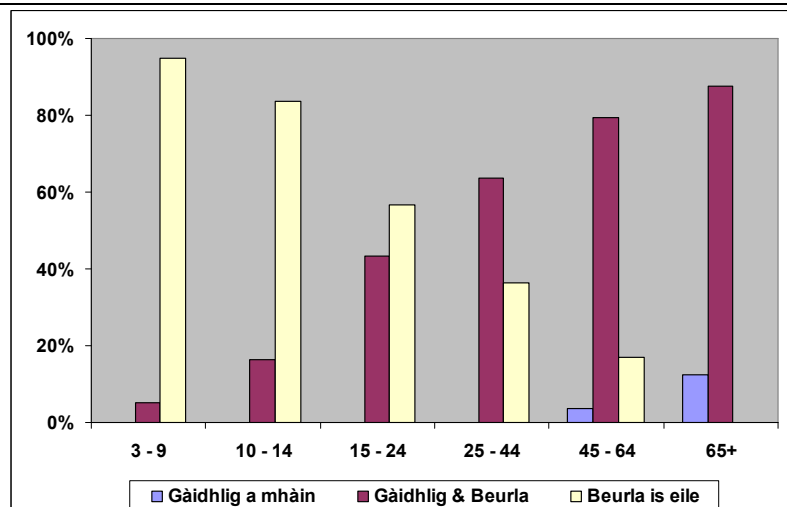
The language was already on the decline at this time. Generations born before 1870 were still predominantly speaking the Gàidhlig language, but the younger people were mostly monolingual English speakers. Just five persons in the area spoke “Gaelic only”. They were all advanced in age.

The strength of the language was far from being uniformly distributed over the area. On some farm holdings like *Tuilm* (Holm) the traditional tongue was almost absent whereas some crofting communities near *Dail Gramaiche* (Dalgramich) were overwhelmingly Gàidhlig speaking.

Area description:

The district covered lies to the east of the city of *Inbhirnis* (Inverness) on the coastal plain between the counties of *Narann* (Nairn) and *Inbhirnis* (Inverness). The settlements include the village of *Crothaigh* (Croy) and a number of smaller hamlets and farms.

At the time of the census agriculture was the dominant factor in the life of the population.



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	335	21	0	9	305	5	144	48.9 %
3-4	16		0	0	16	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	44		0	1	43	0	3	7.0 %
10-14	43		0	0	43	0	7	16.3 %
15-24	47		0	1	46	0	20	43.5 %
25-44	82		0	2	80	0	51	63.8 %
45-64	56		0	3	53	2	42	83.0 %
65+	26		0	2	24	3	21	100 %
Gender								
Female	176	11	0	3	162	4	83	53.7 %
Male	159	10	0	6	143	1	61	43.4 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	158	21	0	2	135	0	60	44.4 %
In neighbouring parish¹	33	0	0	1	32	1	16	53.1 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	65	0	0	2	63	4	52	88.9 %
Other places	79	0	0	4	75	0	16	21.3 %

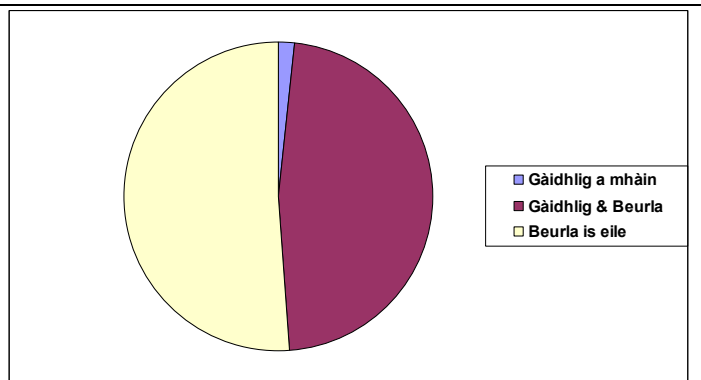
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Petty, Daviot & Dunlichity, Moy & Dalarossie (all Inverness) or Croy and Cawdor (both Nairn).

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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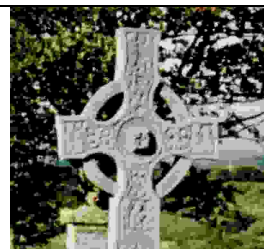
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Crothaigh & Dail Chrois</i>	74	305	5	144	48.9 %
Individual communities					
<i>Càrn Glas & Tir fo Grèine</i> (Cairnglass & Tìrfogrein)	3	19	0	2	10.5 %
<i>Crothaigh & Crothaigh Beag</i> (Croy & Little Croy)	20	81	0	41	50.6 %
<i>An Tuilm</i> ¹ (Holme Rose)	11	46	0	13	28.3 %
<i>An t-Ath Dubh & Baile na Buaille</i> (Blackford & Balnubual)	9	26	1	17	69.2 %
<i>Cantra</i> (Cantray)	12	45	0	25	55.6 %
<i>Bràigh Cantra</i> (Brae of Cantray)	6	27	2	11	48.1 %
<i>Mòine Dail Gramaiche</i> (Dalgramich Moor)	5	25	2	16	72.0 %
<i>Dail Chrois</i> (Dalcross)	8	36	0	19	52.8 %

¹ The farmland of Holme Rose was transferred in 1891 from the county of Inverness to the county of Nairn.

Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	14	75	2	42	58.7 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	6	27	0	20	74.1 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	8	50	0	9	18.0 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	8	39	0	2	5.1 %
Households with no children (0-14)	38	114	3	71	64.9 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	19	86	3	54	66.3 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	6	21	0	13	61.9 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	5	22	0	7	31.8 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	8	41	0	14	34.1 %
Living on private means	1	6	0	2	33.3 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	3	15	0	4	26.7 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	32	114	2	50	45.6 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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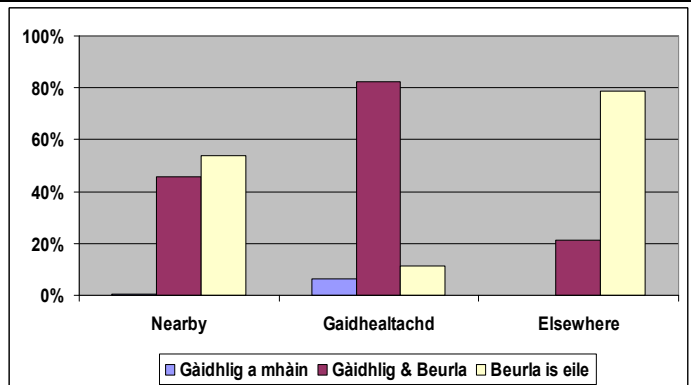
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Almost 50 % of the nearby born residents still spoke Gàidhlig. Whereas most people born in the wider *Gaidhealtachd* spoke the language, too, those born elsewhere were most likely to be English monolinguals.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Croy & Dalcross or in the adjacent parishes of Petty, Daviot & Dunlichity, Moy & Dalarossie (all Inverness) or Croy and Cawdor (both Nairn).

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. Just five persons in the area spoke “Gaelic only”. They were all advanced in age.
2. At the time of the census several county boundaries were still very fragmented, and several small enclaves existed in several counties. This was especially the case in districts of Inverness-shire and Nairnshire. For example, the farmland of Holme Rose was transferred in 1891 from the county of Inverness to the county of Nairn.
3. Official census figures reported 148 bilingual inhabitants and 5 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 335 persons (45.7 %). The usually resident population consisted of 149 Gàidhlig-speakers (48.9 %) including five persons “with no Gaelic”.