

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 061

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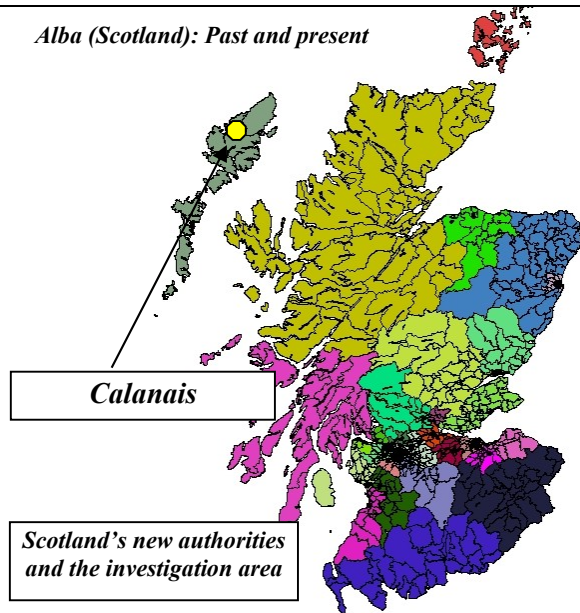
Area: *Leòdhas (Lewis): Calanais, Gearraidh na h-Aibhne & Eilean Orasaigh*
 (Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Callanish, Garynahine, Orinsay Island)

Number of households: 69 Population present at census night: 325

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 99.7 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Uig	Carloway	1	20 – 34

Alba (Scotland): Past and present

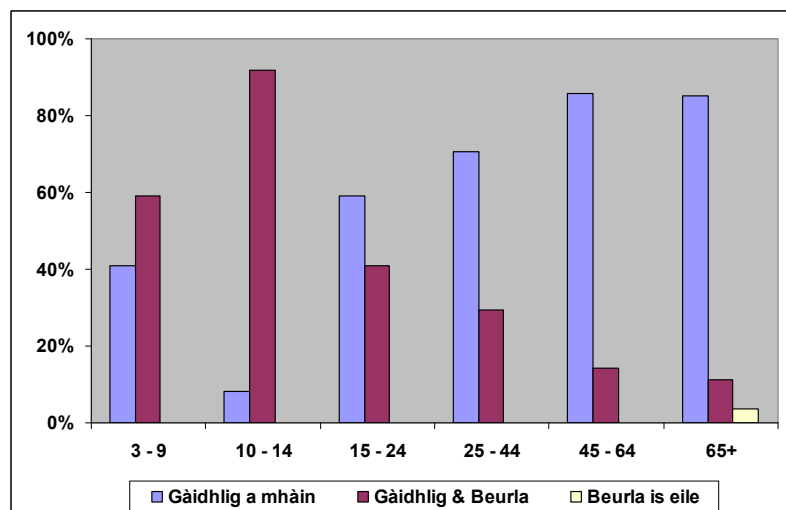


State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

The usually resident population was overwhelmingly monolingual, i.e. the majority did not speak English at all. On the other hand, there was only one elderly woman from the Lowlands who did not speak Gàidhlig. Bilingual persons were most numerous in the school age generation. These returns were caused by the totally English medium instruction in the local school. Men were also more likely to (be able to) speak English than women.

Area description:

This factsheet deals with the community of *Calanais* (Callanish), the dwellings at *Gearraidh na h-Aibhne* (Garynahine) and the inhabitants of *Eilean Orasaigh* (Orinsay). These settlements are located on the shores of *Loch Roag* on the west-coast of the Hebridean island of *Leòdhas* (Lewis). Apart from the Inn at *Gearraidh na h-Aibhne* people were mostly occupied with crofting and fishing.



Age profile: Share of population speaking (1) Gàidhlig, (2) Gàidhlig & English, or (3) no Gàidhlig at all

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Area: *Leòdhas (Lewis): Calanais, Gearraidh na h-Aibhne & Eilean Orasaigh*

	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. ³	Total ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	325	23	0	6	296	174	121	99.7 %
3-4	17	0	0	0	17	15	2	100 %
5-9	45	0	0	1	44	10	34	100 %
10-14	38	0	0	1	37	3	34	100 %
15-24	45	0	0	1	44	26	18	100 %
25-44	81	0	0	3	78	55	23	100 %
45-64	49	0	0	0	49	42	7	100 %
65+	27	0	0	0	27	23	3	96.3 %
Gender								
Female	166	14	0	2	150	97	53	100 %
Male	159	9	0	4	146	77	68	99.3 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	294	22	0	2	270	165	105	100 %
In neighbouring parish¹	21	1	0	4	16	8	8	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	9	0	0	0	9	1	8	100 %
Other places	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0 %

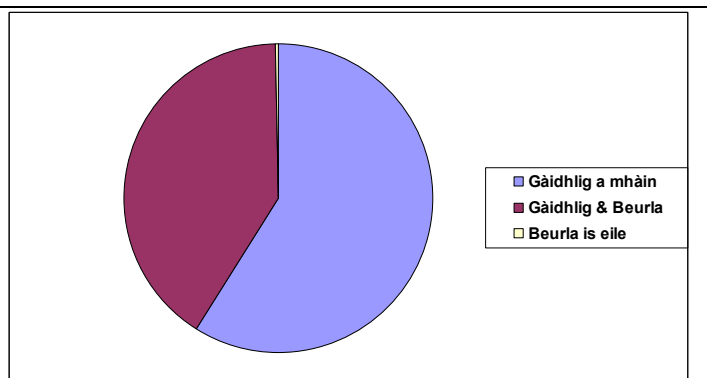
Notes:

¹Parishes of Barvas, Lochs and Stornoway (all Ross & Cromarty) or Harris (Inverness).

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

³People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers or other similar terms.

⁴Number 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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Area: *Leòdhas (Lewis): Calanais, Gearraidh na h-Aibhne & Eilean Orasaigh*

	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Calanais & Gearraidh na h-Aibhne</i>	69	296	174	121	99.7 %
Individual communities					
<i>Calanais (Callanish)</i>	66	283	173	110	90.9 %
<i>Gearraidh na h-Aibhne (Garynahine)</i>	2	11	0	10	100 %
<i>Eilean Orasaigh (Orinsay Island)</i>	1	2	1	1	100 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	39	201	108	92	99.5 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	4	14	8	6	100 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	26	81	81	23	100 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	63	271	171	100	100 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	1	2	1	1	100 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	4	0	4	100 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	3	13	2	10	92.3 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	1	6	0	6	100 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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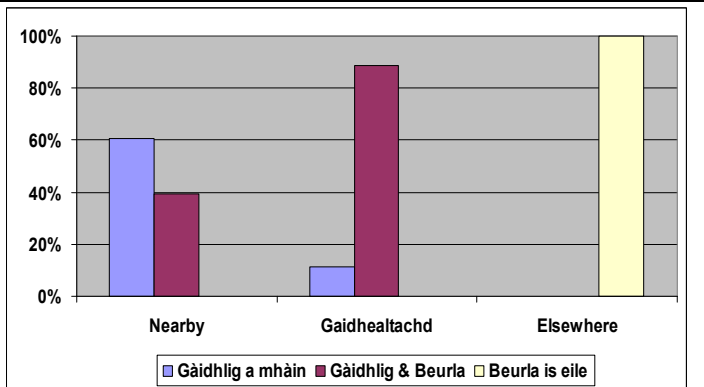
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

A majority of monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers were born nearby. The only person born outside the *Gaidhealtachd* was also the only person who did not speak the local language.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Uig or in the adjacent parishes of Barvas, Lochs and Stornoway (all Ross & Cromarty) or Harris (Inverness).

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. The only non-*Gàidhlig* speaker was a 70-year-old domestic dairymaid from Kirkmichael in Dumfriesshire. She worked in the inn of *Gearraidh na h-Aibhne* (Garynahine) where all other dwellers were bilingual.
2. In original census report terms, the enumeration district in total had a population of 325 persons of all ages. 127 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 189 persons were reported as monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers. These figures led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 97.2 %. A comparison with the more realistic statistics of this factsheet reveals that even this high percentage was a slight under-estimate of 2.5 %. Main reason was the inclusion of under-three olds and visitors in the official population base.