

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 062

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Area: *Asainn (Assynt): Loch an Inbhir, Culag, Inbhir & Bad an Daraich*

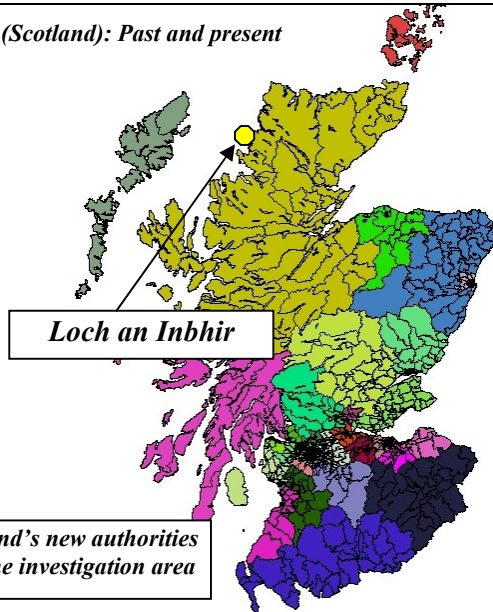
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Lochinver, Culag, Inver, Baddidarach)

Number of households: 53 Population present at census night: 243

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 71.6 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Sutherland	Assynt	Stoer	2	1 - 12

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

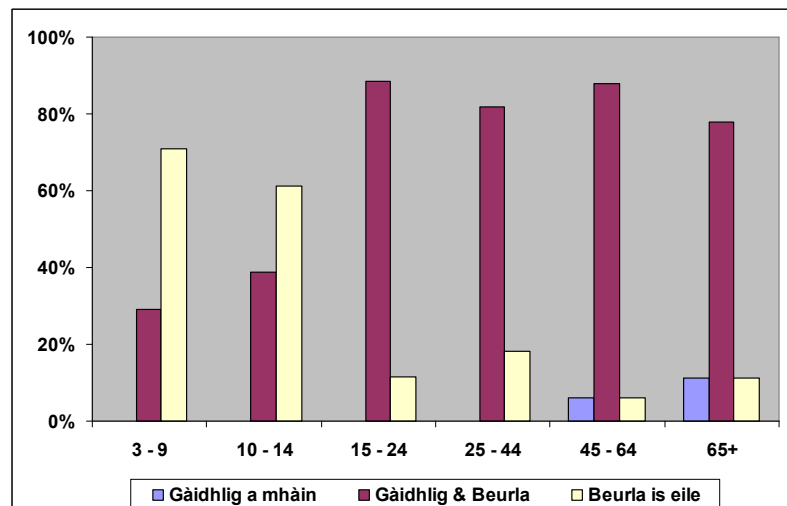
Roughly three quarters of the usually resident population were counted as Gàidhlig speakers at census night. The language was still spoken by a majority in all age groups beyond school age. Compared with neighbouring crofting communities, however, the relative strength of the language was significantly lower. This fact can be related to the large number of people living in the area who were born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. They were mostly reluctant to learn the language of their neighbours – such was the status of Gàidhlig in those days.

The strongest language community in this area had been *Inbhir* (Inver) with more than 80 % of inhabitants speaking Gàidhlig.

Area description:

The area lies on the west coast of *Cataibh* (Sutherland) in the parish of *Asainn* (Assynt). The settlements present were centred around the natural harbour of *Loch an Inbhir* (Lochinver) which was already used in those days by vessels for offshore fishing purposes.

Apart from these fishing activities there were also some “urban” occupations present like police force, post officer, merchants, and the local medical practitioner. The majority of people in the neighbouring settlements were of course occupied with crofting activities.



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	243	14	1	31	197	4	137	71.6 %
3-4	14		0	0	14	0	1	7.1 %
5-9	25		1	0	24	0	10	41.7 %
10-14	18		0	0	18	0	7	38.9 %
15-24	37		0	2	35	0	31	88.6 %
25-44	77		0	22	55	0	45	81.8 %
45-64	38		0	5	33	2	29	93.9 %
65+	20		0	2	18	2	14	88.9 %
Gender								
Female	119	9	0	3	107	4	76	74.8 %
Male	124	5	1	28	90	0	61	67.8 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	141	12	1	6	122	4	89	76.2 %
In neighbouring parish¹	19	0	0	0	19	0	17	89.5 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	48	2	0	22	24	0	20	83.3 %
Other places	35	0	0	3	32	0	11	34.4 %

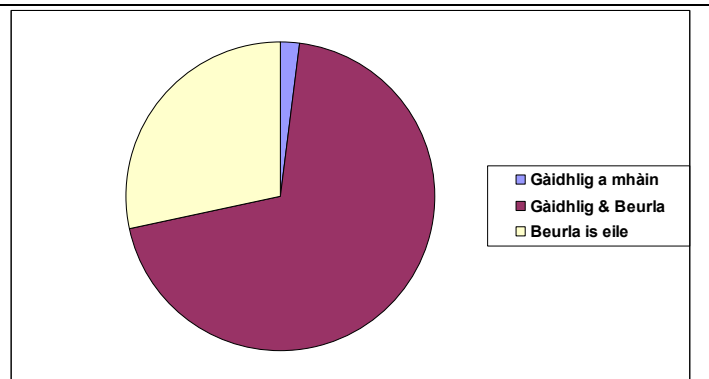
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Lochbroom, Kincardine (both Ross & Cromarty); Eddrachillis, Creich (both Sutherland).

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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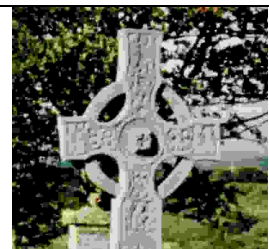
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Area: *Asainn (Assynt): Loch an Inbhir, Culag, Inbhir & Bad an Daraich*

	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Loch an Inbhir</i>	53	197	4	137	71.6 %
Individual communities					
<i>Loch an Inbhir</i> (Lochinver)	20	84	1	56	67.9 %
<i>Culag</i> (Culag)	11	31	0	20	64.5 %
<i>Inbhir</i> (Inver)	8	28	1	22	82.1 %
<i>Bad an Daraich</i> (Baddidarach)	14	54	2	39	75.9 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	12	76	0	50	65.8 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	7	26	1	19	76.9 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	2	12	0	7	58.3 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	2	12	0	1	8.3 %
Households with no children (0-14)	30	71	3	60	88.7 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	13	49	2	37	79.6 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	1	7	0	4	57.1 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	5	11	0	3	27.3 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	15	54	1	45	85.2 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	8	49	0	19	47.5 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	9	31	1	24	80.6 %
Remaining occupations	2	5	0	5	100 %

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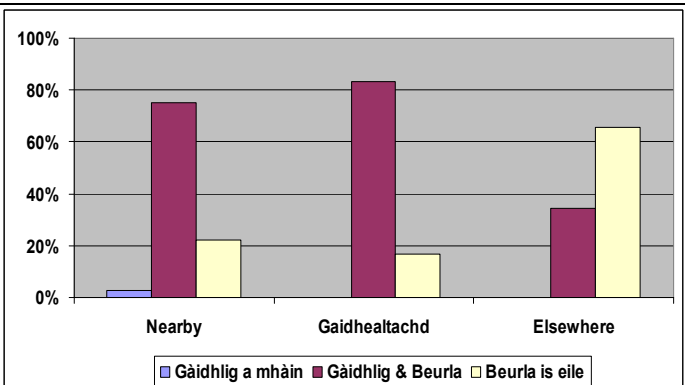
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Four fifths of residents born in the *Gaidhealtachd* spoke Gàidhlig. Also a third of those born elsewhere spoke the local language.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Assynt or in the adjacent parishes of Lochbroom and Kincardine (both Ross & Cromarty) or Eddrachillis and Creich (both Sutherland).

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. Four residents of the area were returned as speaking “Gaelic only”. All were 60 years of age or older.
2. Official census figures in this part of *Asainn* (Assynt) reported 149 bilingual inhabitants and five monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 228 persons (67.5 %). The usually resident population, however, consisted of 141 Gàidhlig-speakers (71.6 %) including four persons “with no Gaelic”.