

# Alba 1891: *Gàidhlig* (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 068

Page 1 of 4

Area: *Leòdhas (Lewis): Bragar bho Dheas & Feabhaig*

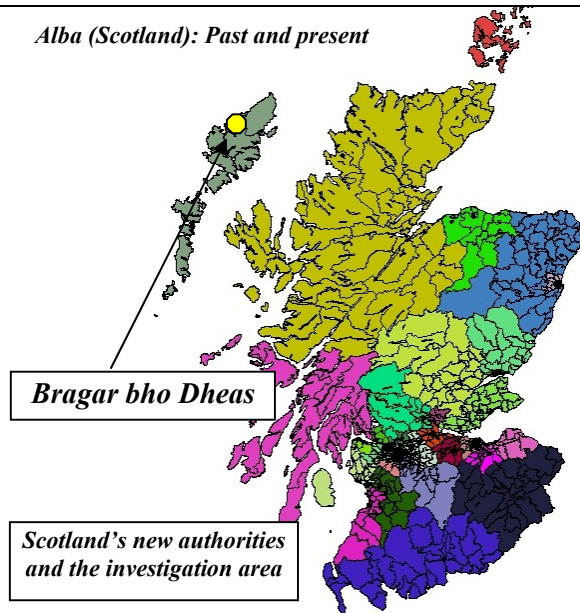
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: South Bragar, Feavic)

Number of households: 72      Population present at census night: 386

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking *Gàidhlig*: 100 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Barvas	Barvas	1	1 – 16

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of *Gàidhlig* in 1891:

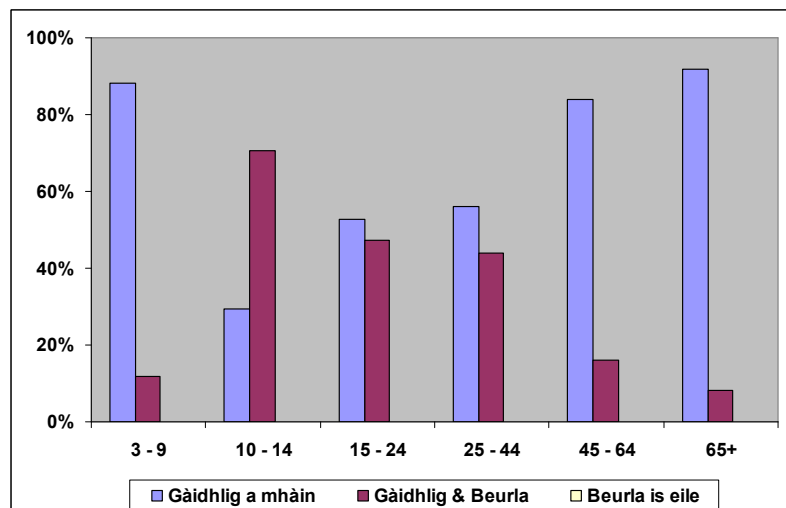
All usually resident persons were found to be *Gàidhlig* speaking in this crofting community in 1891.

A large majority of inhabitants did not speak English at all. This fact was especially found in the older generation and among the very young. Also, women were far more often monolingual speakers than men. In the small group of houses in *Feabhaig* just one person spoke English as well as *Gàidhlig*.

## Area description:

The district is situated on the west coast of the island of *Leòdhas* (Lewis) which was part of the county of *Ros is Cromba* (Ross & Cromarty) in those days.

Both settlements *Bragar bho Dheas* (South Bragar) and *Feabhaig* (Feavic) were traditional, almost exclusively crofting communities. Only a few members were active in near-shore fishing in addition.



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

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 068

Page 2 of 4

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	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. <sup>3</sup>	Total <sup>4</sup>	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>47</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>41</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>62</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>84</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>69</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>37</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>

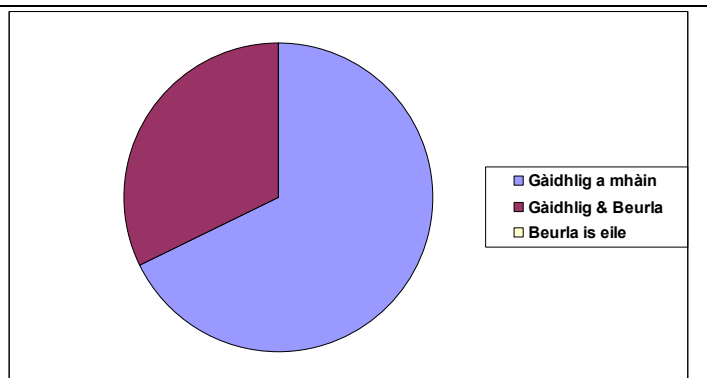
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Stornoway or Uig (both Ross & Cromarty).

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

<sup>3</sup> People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers or other similar terms.

<sup>4</sup> 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](http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP_english.htm).

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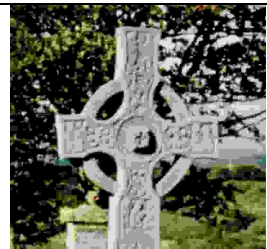
No. 068

Page 3 of 4

Area: *Leòdhas (Lewis): Bragar bho Dheas & Feabhaig*

	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Bragar bho Dheas &amp; Feabhaig</i>	72	353	239	114	100 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Bragar bho Dheas</i> (South Bragar)	69	335	222	113	100 %
<i>Feabhaig</i> (Feavic)	3	18	17	1	100 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	37	230	152	78	100 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	11	36	36	14	100 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	24	73	51	22	100 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	61	304	210	94	100 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	0	0	0	0	-
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	4	34	18	16	100 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	7	15	11	4	100 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 068

Page 4 of 4

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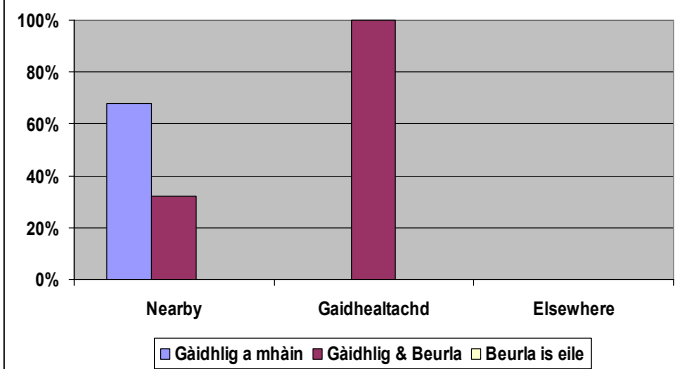
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Most locally born inhabitants spoke only Gàidhlig. The few from Highland areas further away were bilingual. No residents were enumerated with a birthplace outside the *Gaidhealtachd*.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Barvas or in the adjacent parishes of Stornoway and Uig (both Ross & Cromarty).

<sup>2</sup> Born in other parishes of Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.



Speakers according to place of birth (1) nearby<sup>1</sup>  
(2) in remaining *Gaidhealtachd*<sup>2</sup>, or (3) elsewhere

## Remarks:

1. No usually resident person (aged three years or over) was found with no knowledge of the *Gàidhlig* language.
2. In original census report terms, the enumeration district in total had a population of 386 persons of all ages. Just 117 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 264 persons were reported as monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers. These figures led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 98.7 %. A comparison with the more realistic statistics of this factsheet reveals that even this high percentage was a slight under-estimate of 1.3 % caused by the inclusion of under-three olds and visitors in the official population base.