

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 071

Page 1 of 4

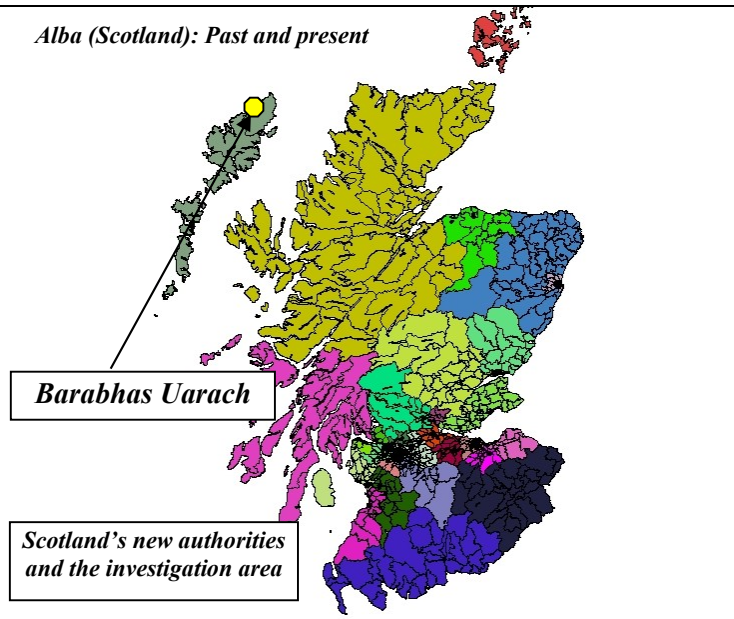
Area: *Leòdhas (Lewis): Barabhas Uarach & Baile an Truiseil*

(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Upper Barvas, Policeman's House, The Manse, Shepherd's House & Ballantrushal)

Number of households: 54 **Population present at census night:** 320

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	Barvas	Barvas	4	1 – 14



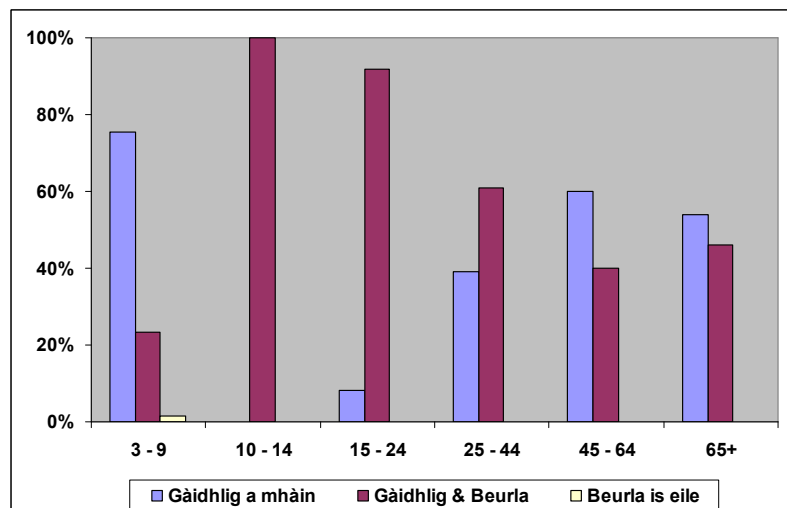
State of Gàidhlig in 1891:
 The crofting townships in question were as thoroughly Gàidhlig-speaking as any in the Outer Hebrides. According to census sources - except for one child - the whole usually resident population spoke the traditional language. Around 40 % of the people did not even speak English. The “bilingual” part of the population was most prominent in the school age generation.

 In *Baile an Truiseil* (Ballantrushal) the monolingual inhabitants made up even one half of the population.

Area description:

The communities described are situated on the westside of the island of *Leòdhas* (Lewis) in the centre of the parish of *Barabhas* (Barvas). The whole island was of course part of the county of *Ros & Cromba* (Ross & Cromarty). In particular the townships described are *Barabhas Uarach* (Upper Barvas) and *Baile an Truiseil* (Ballantrushal).

Most of the inhabitants of these Hebridean communities were crofters, a few others were engaged as fishermen.



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. 071

Page 2 of 4

Area: *Leòdhas (Lewis): Barabhas Uarach & Baile an Truiseil*

	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. ³	Total ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	320	28	0	2	290	123	166	99.7 %
3-4	18		0	0	18	17	0	94.4 %
5-9	51		0	0	51	35	16	100 %
10-14	41		0	0	41	0	41	100 %
15-24	38		0	1	37	3	34	100 %
25-44	78		0	1	77	30	47	100 %
45-64	40		0	0	40	24	16	100 %
65+	26		0	0	26	14	12	100 %
Gender								
Female	154	12	0	1	141	81	60	100 %
Male	166	16	0	1	149	42	106	99.3 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	300	27	0	0	273	119	153	99.6 %
In neighbouring parish¹	5	1	0	0	4	1	3	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	8	0	0	1	7	2	5	100 %
Other places	7	0	0	1	6	1	5	100 %

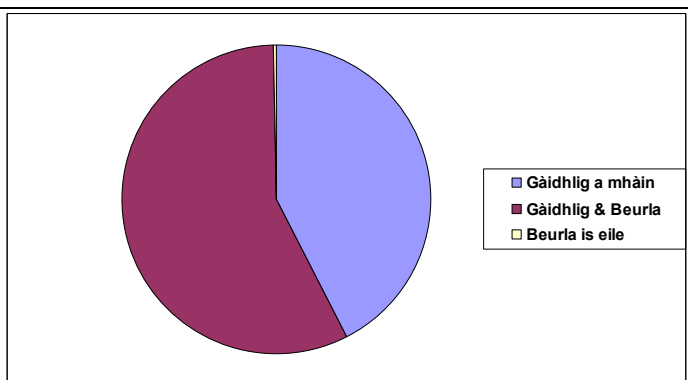
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Stornoway and Uig (both 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.

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

No. 071

Page 3 of 4

Area: *Leòdhas (Lewis): Barabhas Uarach & Baile an Truiseil*

	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	<i>Gàidhlig</i>	<i>Gàidhlig</i> & English	<i>Gàidhlig</i> speakers (%)
<i>Barabhas Uarach & Baile an Truiseil</i>	54	290	123	166	99.7 %
Individual communities					
<i>Barabhas Uarach</i> (Upper Barvas)	29	151	54	97	100 %
<i>Baile an Truiseil</i> (Ballantrushal)	25	139	69	69	99.3 %
Language of parents					
Both parents <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	35	217	100	116	99.5 %
Single parent <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	6	27	10	17	100 %
One parent <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	13	46	13	33	100 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	44	250	110	139	99.6 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	1	6	0	6	100 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	3	15	0	15	100 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	2	10	5	5	100 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	4	9	8	1	100 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

© Text and statistics: Copyright Kurt C. Duwe. All rights reserved except private and non-commercial use. Any other use has to be cleared by the author Kurt C. Duwe, Jägerstr. 120a, 21079 Hamburg, Germany (duwe@linguae-celticae.de) and it may also fall under restrictions of the Crown Copyright of census data. Statistics have been derived from 1891 census returns published by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS). The use of this material here is permitted under Licence No. C02W0003665. Crown Copyright of census data is acknowledged. The digital boundaries shown on the Scotland map are courtesy of Ordnance Survey as part of the Geography Products provided by GROS. Additional individual profiles may be downloaded from a special page on the Linguae Celticae website: http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP_english.htm



Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 071

Page 4 of 4

Area: *Leòdhas (Lewis): Barabhas Uarach & Baile an Truiseil*

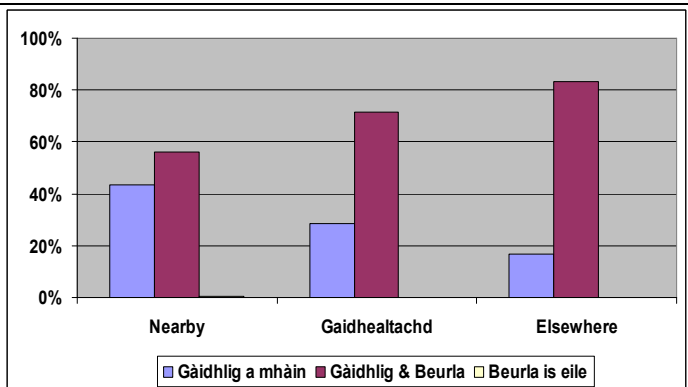
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The share of monolingual (*Gàidhlig*-speaking) persons was highest among those born nearby or in the wider *Gaidhealtachd*. However, even a few inhabitants who were born elsewhere did not speak English. These persons were mostly very young and probably had returned with their parents to the island recently.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Barvas or in the adjacent parishes of Stornoway and Uig (both 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 *Gaidhealtachd*², or (3) elsewhere

Remarks:

1. There was just one person (a three-year-old boy) who was enumerated as “not speaking Gaelic”.
2. In original census report terms, the enumeration district in total had a population of 320 persons of all ages. 168 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 122 persons were reported as monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers. These figures led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 90.6 %. A comparison with the more realistic statistics of this factsheet reveals that this percentage was a considerable under-estimate of 9.1 % mainly caused by the inclusion of under-three olds and visitors in the official population base.