

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 077

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Area: *Leòdhas (Lewis): Port nan Giùran, An Tiumpan & Brocair*

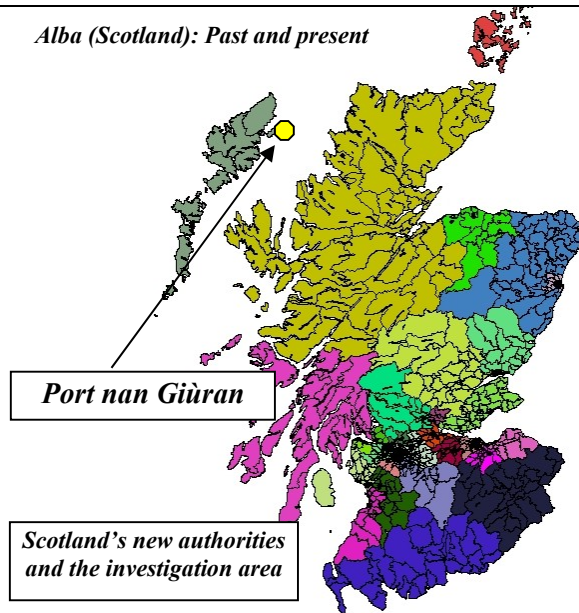
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Portnaguran, Tiumpan & Broker)

Number of households: 51      Population present at census night: 301

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	Stornoway	Stornoway	15	21 (part) – 33

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

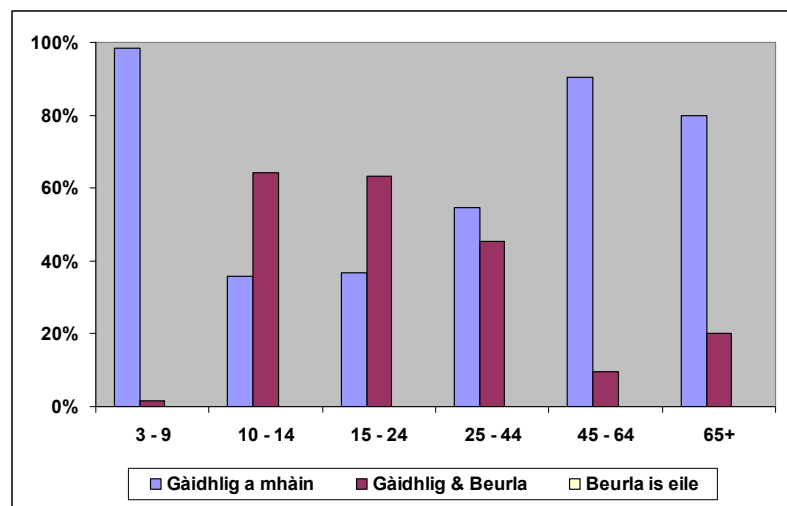
All usually resident persons in both settlements were Gàidhlig speakers. The clear majority did not speak English at the time of the census. Men were far more likely to have some bilingual skills than women. Among age groups only young people aged between 10 and 24 were markedly bilingual.

Whereas *Port nan Giùran* (Portnaguran) was basically a monolingual community, residents in nearby *Brocair* were more familiar with the English tongue.

## Area description:

The crofting communities of *Port nan Giùran* (Portnaguran) and *Brocair* (Broker) are situated on the peninsula of *An Rubha* to the east of the Hebridean island of *Leòdhas* (Lewis). Administratively the district was part of the county of *Ros is Cromba* (Ross & Cromarty) in 1891.

Almost all households were dependent on crofting and fishing activities in those days.



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. <sup>3</sup>	Total <sup>4</sup>	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>43</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>40</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>77</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</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>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100 %</b>

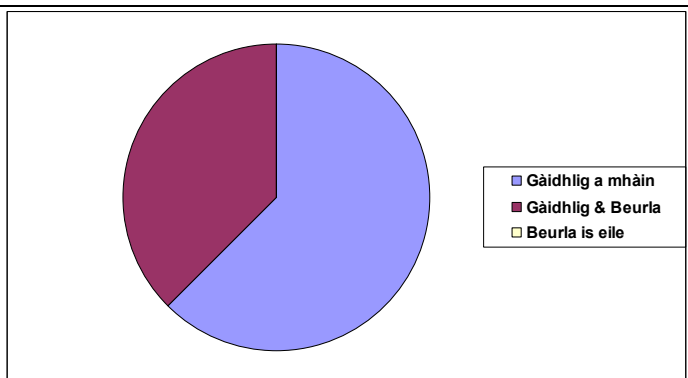
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Barvas, Lochs and Uig (all 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 factsheets 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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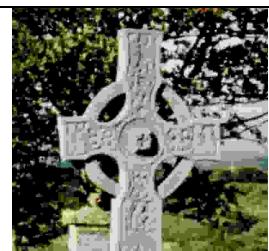
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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Port nan Giùran &amp; Brocair</i>	51	274	171	103	100 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Port nan Giùran</i> (Portnaguran)	44	237	158	79	100 %
<i>Brocair &amp; An Tiumpan</i> (Broker & Tiumpan)	7	37	13	24	100 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	38	210	132	78	100 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	9	48	28	20	100 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	4	16	11	5	100 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	49	263	166	97	100 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	0	0	0	0	-
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	2	11	5	6	100 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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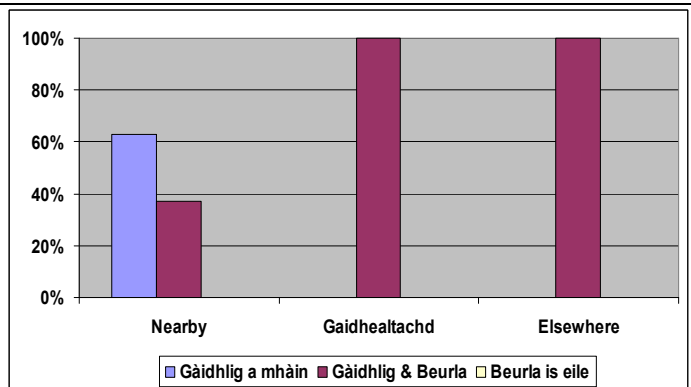
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

*Gàidhlig* monolingual persons in the community were all born on the island. Those born further away were all bilingual.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Stornoway or in the adjacent parishes of Barvas, Lochs and Uig (all 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. There were no usually resident persons enumerated as “not speaking Gaelic”.
2. In original census report terms, the enumeration district in total had a population of 301 persons of all ages. 107 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 180 persons were reported as monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers. These figures led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 95.3 %. A comparison with the more realistic statistics of this factsheet reveals that this percentage was a considerable under-estimate of 4.7 % caused by the inclusion of under-three olds and visitors in the official population base.