

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 079

Page 1 of 4

Area: *Aird Ghobhar (Ardgour): Cill ma Liath, Gleann Galmadail, Camas na Croise, Ceann Gheàrrloch, Gleann Sannda, Clò Mhuilinn, Salachan, Cùil, An Corran & Inbhir Sgarbhdail*

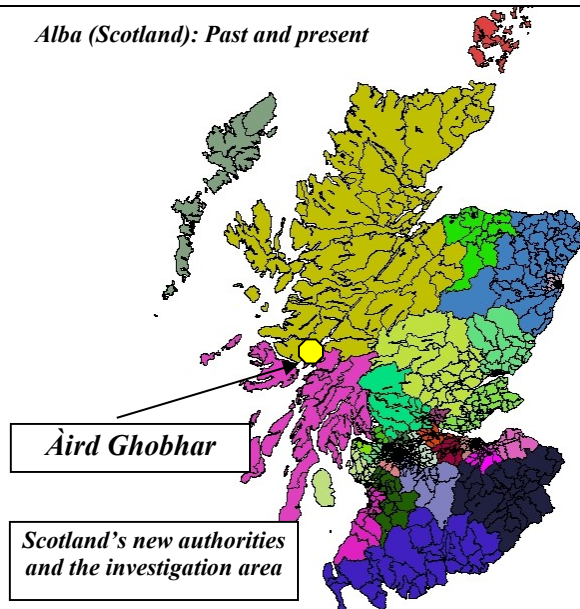
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Kilmalieu, Glengalmadale, Camusnacrosch, Coinach, Coanacoile, Lochuisik, North Corry, South Corry, Rhumohr, Glensanda, Inversanda, Clovullin, Geradh, Sallachan, Corran, Comar, Cuil, Torrains, Glenscaddle. North Corran, Camusasaig, Keil, Aryhoulan, Ardgour & Inverscaddle)

Number of households: 73 **Population present at census night:** 384

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 74.7 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Argyll	Kilmallie (after 1891 Ardgour)	Lismore	5	1 – 5
		Ballachulish & Corran of Ardgour	4	1 – 9
			5	1 - 5

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

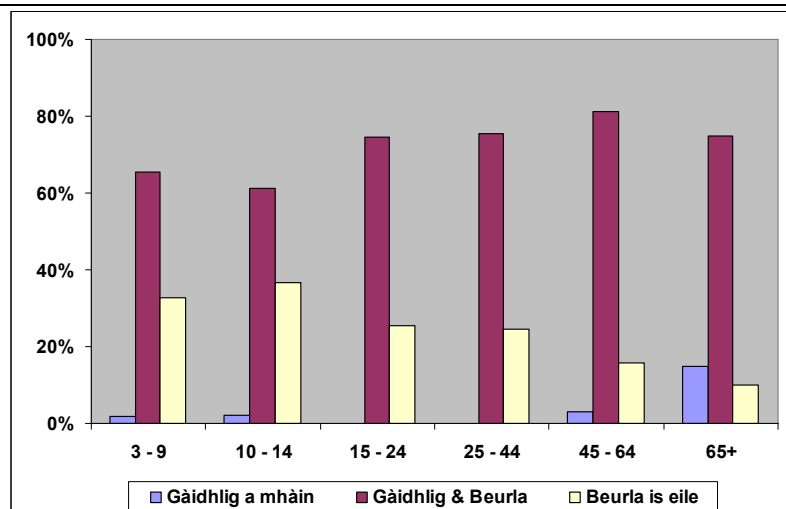
This area was inhabited by two distinct language groups. On the one hand almost every crofter or servant spoke *Gàidhlig* - on the other hand members of the large group of outsiders were very unlikely to speak the local tongue. Children with *Gàidhlig* speaking parents grew up with the language – the knowledge of *Gàidhlig* in English speaking homes was virtually nil.

Of course, the strongest *Gàidhlig* speaking community at the time was the crofting hamlet of *Clò Mhuilinn* (Clovullin) with over 90 % of inhabitants speaking the language.

Area description:

The district comprises the lands on the western shores of *An Linne Dubh* (Upper Loch Linnhe) between the narrows of *Corran* and *Gleann Sannda* (Glensanda). Apart from the crofting hamlet of *Clò Mhuilinn* (Clovullin) human settlement was mostly confined to a few mansions and some widely scattered dwellings of shepherds, gamekeepers, and the odd lighthouse keeper.

Most of the inhabitants were dependent in one way or another upon the local estates for work.



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

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Page 2 of 4

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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	384	19	0	37	328	7	238	74.7 %
3-4	17		0	1	16	1	5	37.5 %
5-9	42		0	3	39	0	31	79.5 %
10-14	55		0	6	49	1	30	63.3 %
15-24	68		0	5	63	0	47	74.6 %
25-44	86		0	9	77	0	58	75.3 %
45-64	69		0	5	64	2	52	84.4 %
65+	28		0	8	20	3	15	90.0 %
Gender								
Female	182	8	0	8	166	5	105	66.3 %
Male	202	11	0	29	162	2	133	83.3 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	109	11	0	5	93	2	85	93.5 %
In neighbouring parish¹	36	0	0	2	34	1	32	97.1 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	147	5	0	14	128	3	105	84.4 %
Other places	92	3	0	16	73	1	16	23.3 %

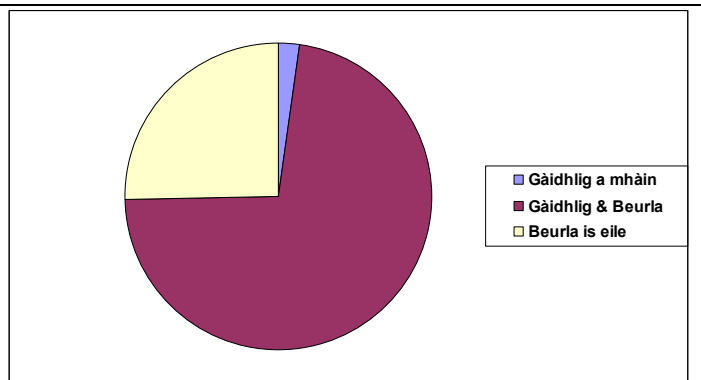
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Ardnamurchan and Morvern (both Argyll).

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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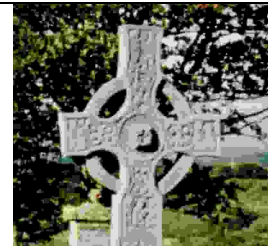
No. 079

Page 3 of 4

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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Àird Ghobhar & Ceann Gheàrrloch</i>	73	328	7	238	74.7 %
Individual communities					
<i>Cill ma Liath & Gleann Sannda</i> (Kilmalieu & Glensanda)	20	81	2	52	66.7 %
<i>Clò Mhuilinn</i> (Clovullin)	25	108	4	94	90.7 %
<i>Corran, Cùil & Na Tòrranan</i> (Corran, Cuil & Torrans)	7	41	1	28	70.7 %
<i>Àird Ghobhar & Inbhir Sgarbhdail</i> (Ardgour & Inverscaddle)	21	98	0	64	65.3 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	18	104	1	101	98.1 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	10	57	2	43	78.9 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	5	22	0	5	22.7 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	7	55	0	11	20.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	33	90	4	78	91.1 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	15	63	3	57	95.2 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	19	96	3	66	71.9 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	8	47	0	18	38.3 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	9	32	0	31	96.9 %
Living on private means	1	16	0	5	31.3 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	5	20	0	9	45.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	16	54	1	52	98.1 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Page 4 of 4

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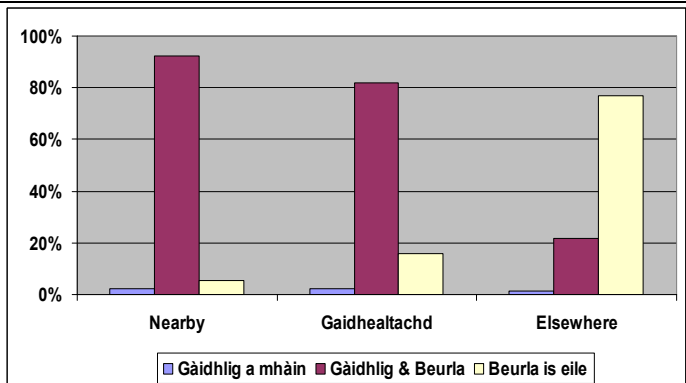
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

People born locally or nearby were almost exclusively Gàidhlig speakers. Just around 20 % of people from outside the *Gaidhealtachd* on the other hand spoke also Gàidhlig besides English.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Ardgour or in the adjacent parishes of Ardnamurchan or Morvern (both Argyll).

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. Eighty-three persons were returned as not speaking Gàidhlig. The vast majority of these “English only” speakers (56) was born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. The remaining English monolinguals (although born in a Gàidhlig speaking area) were mostly children in families of incomers where the parents did not speak Gàidhlig.
2. Just seven residents were reported as not speaking English. With the exception of two children (4- and 10-year-old) all these Gàidhlig monolinguals belonged to the older generation.
3. In original census report terms, the district had a population of 384 persons of all ages. 265 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 9 were counted as monolingual Gàidhlig speakers. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 71.4 %. This was an under-estimate of 3.3 %!