

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 089

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Area: *Tom an t-Sabhail (Tomintoul)*

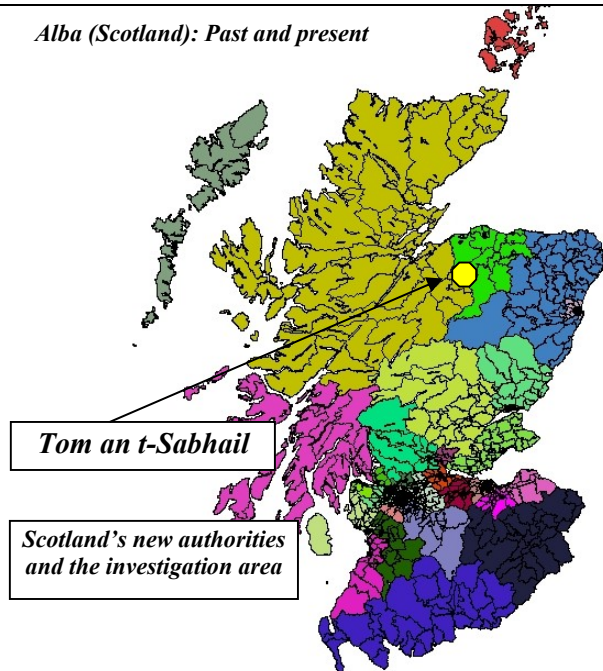
(Names of locations on census forms: Square Lane, Square, Main Street, Smithy Lane)

Number of households: 136 Population present at census night: 506

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: **24.0 %**

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Banff	Kirkmichael	Tomintoul	1	1 - 3
			2	1 - 4

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

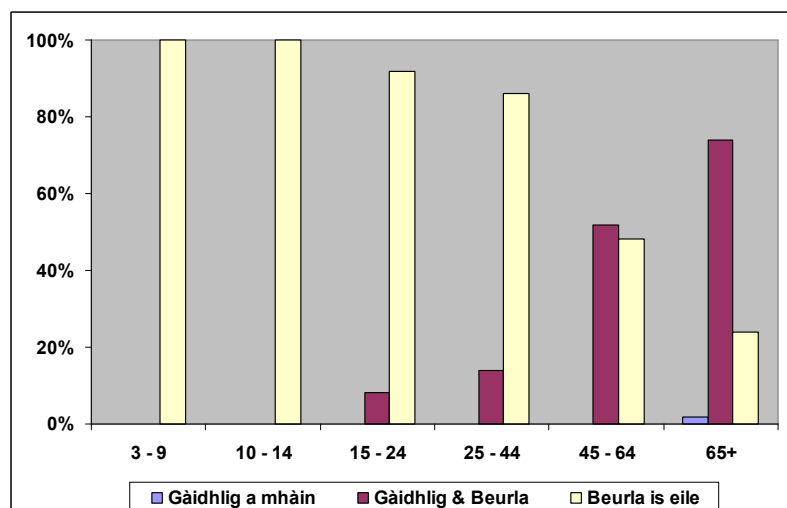
The Gàidhlig language was still spoken by almost one quarter of the usually resident population of the district. However, the language community was already heavily biased towards older generations. There was only an elderly woman who did not speak English.

English monolingual persons held the majority among residents below the age of 45. Accordingly, the Gàidhlig language had ceased to be transmitted from parents to their children around the 1850s. The language had been of course traditionally used in the village as 25 % of those born in the parish were also Gàidhlig speaking.

Area description:

This factsheet looks at the language situation around the village of *Tom an t-Sabhail* (Tomintoul). It lies in the south-western Highlands of the old county of *Banbh* (Banff) and is the highest settlement in the north of Scotland.

Occupations of the inhabitants were relatively diverse with a strong emphasis on agriculture related services and various trades in this market town.



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	506	37	0	53	416	1	99	24.0 %
3-4	24		0	2	22	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	73		0	10	63	0	0	0.0 %
10-14	63		0	19	44	0	0	0.0 %
15-24	69		0	8	61	0	5	8.2 %
25-44	101		0	8	93	0	13	14.0 %
45-64	84		0	5	79	0	41	51.9 %
65+	55		0	1	54	1	40	75.9 %
Gender								
Female	290	21	0	23	246	1	62	25.8 %
Male	216	16	0	30	170	0	37	21.8 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	303	35	0	8	260	0	64	24.6 %
In neighbouring parish¹	83	0	0	4	79	0	19	24.1 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	16	0	0	2	14	1	8	64.3 %
Other places	104	2	0	39	63	0	8	12.7 %

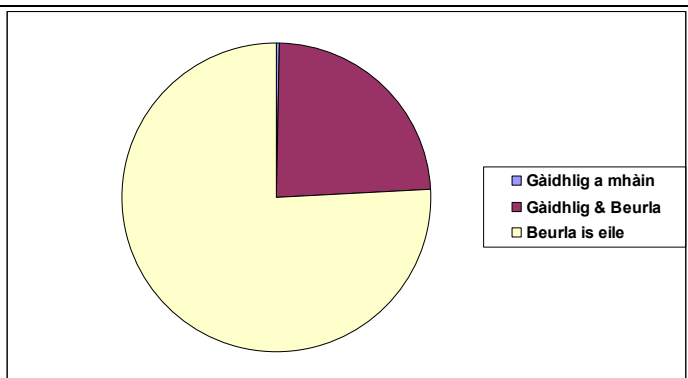
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Inveravon (Banff/Moray); Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie (Moray), Abernethy & Kincardine (Inverness), Crathie & Braemar and Strathdon (Aberdeen).

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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Area: *Tom an t-Sabhail* (Tomintoul)

	House -holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	<i>Gàidhlig</i>	<i>Gàidhlig</i> & English	<i>Gàidhlig</i> speakers (%)
<i>Tom an t-Sabhail</i>	136	416	1	99	24.0 %
Individual communities					

No individual communities were identified within this enumeration district.

Language of parents					
Both parents <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	3	15	0	5	33.3 %
Single parent <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	12	49	0	13	26.5 %
One parent <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	7	24	0	7	29.2 %
No <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking parent	41	177	0	8	4.5 %
Households with no children (0-14)	73	151	1	66	44.4 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	4	16	0	4	25.0 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	4	13	0	4	30.8 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	14	48	0	7	14.6 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	48	147	0	34	23.1 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	14	44	0	14	31.8 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	52	148	1	36	25.0 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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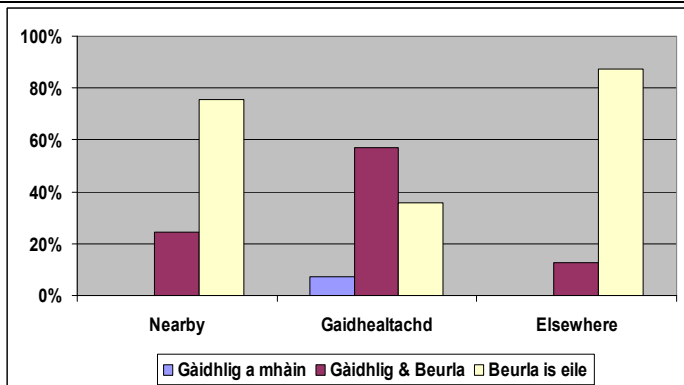
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

A significant part of the locally born population still spoke *Gàidhlig* – although all of them elderly people. Those born outside of the *Gaidhealtachd* were almost totally non-*Gàidhlig* speaking.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Kirkmichael or in the adjacent parishes of Inveravon (Banff); Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie (Moray), Abernethy & Kincardine (Inverness), Crathie & Braemar and Strathdon (Aberdeen).

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. Only one woman in the district spoke “only Gaelic”: She was 75-year-old and her birthplace was *Geàrrloch* (Gairloch) in Wester Ross.
2. In original census report terms, the village had a population of 506 persons of all ages. 103 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and one return was counted as a monolingual *Gàidhlig* speaker. This led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 20.5%. This was a small under-estimate of 3.5 %!