

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 094

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Area: *Srath Spè (Strathspey): Sgiath Churr, Droighneach, Croit na h-Abhainn, An Tulach Gorm, Beul an Athain, Curr a Tuath, Curr Meadhonach, Mucrach, Achadh ma h-Annaid, An Clach Bàn & Drochaid Thulnain*

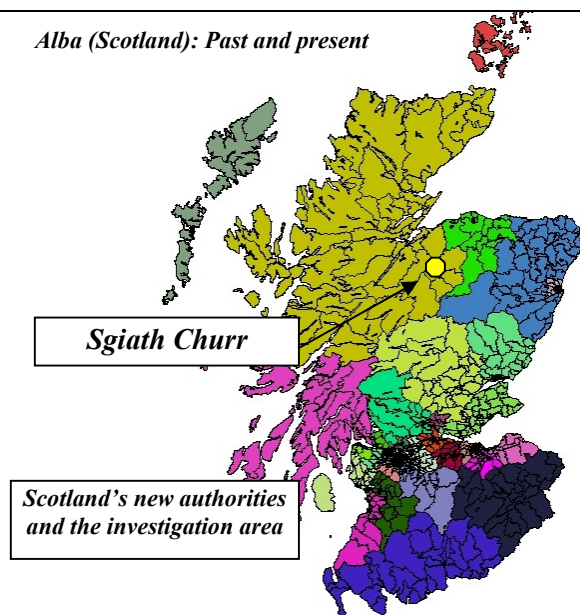
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Skye of Curr, Drynach, Croftnahaven, Tullochgorum, Ochonoirn, Broompark, Balvattan, Balnacruin, Croft Farm, Croft Dow, Torspardon, Clury, Balnain, Easter Curr, Broomhill, Mains of Curr, Mid Curr, Muckerach, Milton, Achnahannet, Clachbain, Balnouck & Dulnain Bridge)

Number of households: 100 **Population present at census night:** 437

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 57.7 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Inverness	Inverallan, Cromdale & Advie	Inverallan	6 7	1 - 13 1 - 3

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

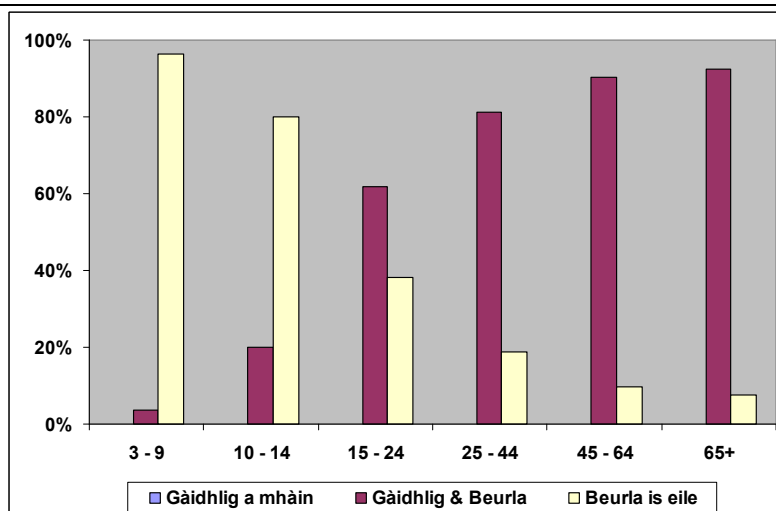
Although situated at the eastern language boundary the district was still mainly Gàidhlig speaking in 1891. English monolingualism was only prominent in the age groups below 15 years – in the remaining generations four out of five persons spoke Gàidhlig at that time. There were no “Gaelic only” speakers around on the other hand.

The language was strongest in the hamlet of *Drochaid Thulnain* (Dulnain Bridge) with 84.8 % of the usually resident population still speaking the traditional language.

Area description:

The Highland district described lies in the easternmost portion of the county of *Inbhirnis* (Inverness) on the left bank of the *Uisge Spè* (River Spey). Its main settlement was the hamlet of *Sgiath Churr* (Skye of Curr). The remaining population lived rather scattered around the district in a handful of farms and crofting dwellings like *Achadh na h-Annaid* (Achnahannet).

The main source of livelihood was of course agriculture in one way or another.



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	437	43	0	42	352	0	203	57.7 %
3-4	31		0	4	27	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	60		0	6	54	0	3	5.6 %
10-14	33		0	4	30	0	6	20.0 %
15-24	66		0	11	55	0	34	61.8 %
25-44	104		0	8	96	0	78	81.3 %
45-64	59		0	8	51	0	46	90.2 %
65+	41		0	2	39	0	36	92.3 %
Gender								
Female	226	22	0	16	189	0	112	59.3 %
Male	211	21	0	27	163	0	91	55.8 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	273	35	0	6	232	0	129	55.6 %
In neighbouring parish¹	28	1	0	0	27	0	22	81.5 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	77	2	0	9	66	0	43	65.2 %
Other places	59	5	0	27	27	0	9	33.3 %

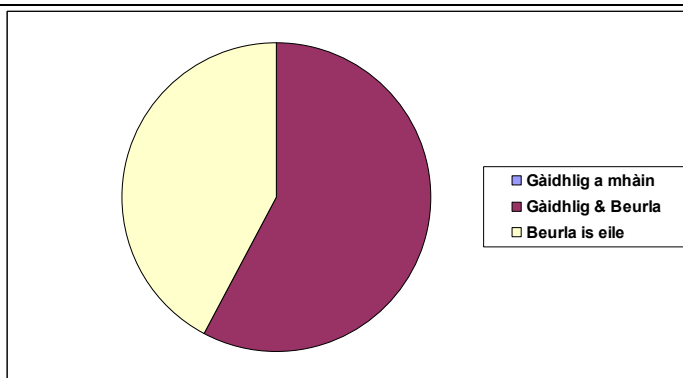
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Knockando, Dyke, Edinkillie (all Moray); Ardelach (Nairn), Kirkmichael (Banff); Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie (all Inverness).

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 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.

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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Sgiath Churr & Drochaid Thulnain</i>	100	352	0	203	57.7 %
Individual communities					
<i>Sgiath Churr</i> (Skye of Curr)	34	110	0	63	54.3 %
<i>Drochaid Thulnain</i> (Dulnain Bridge)	5	13	0	11	84.8 %
<i>An Tulach Gorm & Droighneach</i> (Tullochgorum)	36	128	0	77	60.2 %
<i>Curr a Tuath & Curr Meadhonach</i> (Easter Curr & Mid Curr)	11	45	0	24	53.3 %
<i>Achadh na h-Annaid & Beul an Athain</i> (Achnahannet & Balnain)	14	50	0	28	56.0 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	19	96	0	58	60.4 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	21	76	0	40	52.6 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	10	61	0	16	26.2 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	3	12	0	0	0.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	47	107	0	89	83.2 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	47	191	0	110	57.6 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	1	1	0	1	-
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	2	7	0	4	57.1 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	13	41	0	26	63.4 %
Living on private means	1	2	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	4	7	0	5	71.4 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	21	101	0	55	54.5 %
Remaining occupations	1	2	0	2	-

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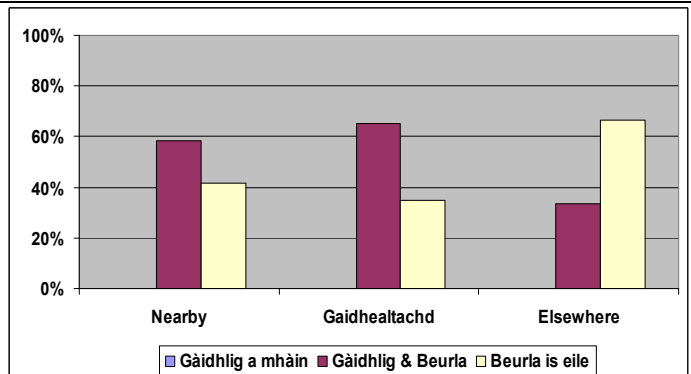
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Gàidhlig was still spoken by most persons born nearby. Interestingly a third of those born outside the *Gaidhealtachd* were also counted as *Gàidhlig* speakers.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Edinkillie or Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie (both Moray) or in the adjacent parishes of Knockando, Dyke (both Moray); Ardclach (Nairn), Kirkmichael (Banff); Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie (all Inverness).

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 were no monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers registered in the area in 1891.
2. In original census report terms, the district had a population of 437 persons of all ages. 216 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” leading to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 49.4 %. This was only a substantial under-estimate of 8.3 % compared with the realistic figures considering only the usually resident population!