

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 095

Page 1 of 4

Area: Narann (Nairn): Drochaid Dhulphasaidh, Fhionais, Beannchar, Ruigh Phuill, Na Bothachan, Tom Lòin, Pait Musach, Lùb Fhlèisteir, Drochaid Lagaidh, Ceapanach, Lainn a'Choirce, Achadh Ghobhar & Cnoc an Eòrna

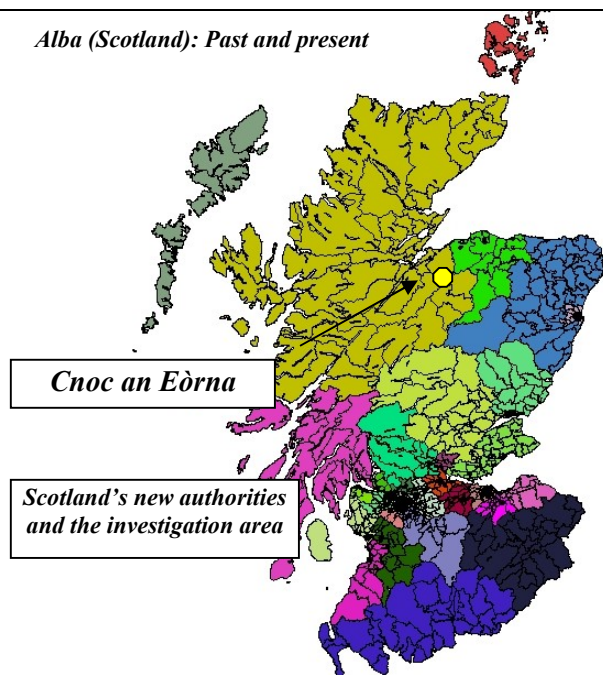
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Dulzie Bridge, Banchor, Balmight, Refuil, Blackfold, Balmakiver, Boath, Tomloan, Patmussach, Lubleister, Fleenas, Logie Bridge, Keppernach, Leovrattich, Lynechork, Achagour & Knockaneorn)

Number of households: 51 Population present at census night: 284

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 35.1 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Nairn	Ardclach	Ardclach	3 4	1 - 7 1 - 6

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

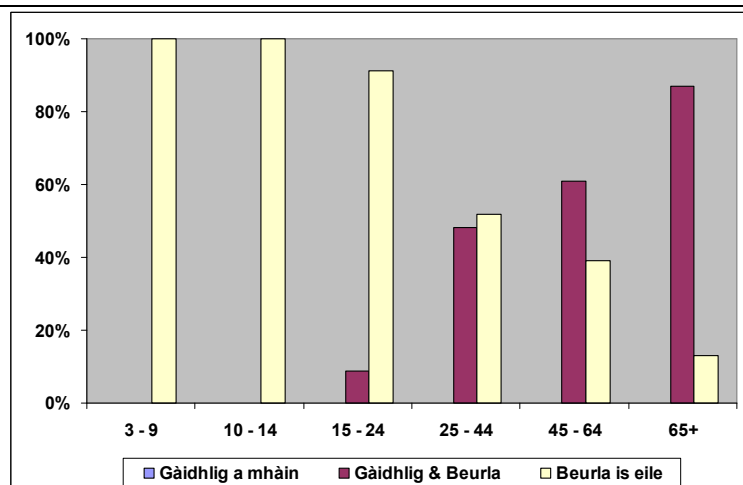
At this time intergenerational language transmission of the Gàidhlig language had almost come to a halt in the district. Whereas still most residents beyond the age of 25 spoke the language almost none of the younger folk spoke the tongue of their ancestors. On the other hand, Gàidhlig was still overwhelmingly spoken among the elderly.

Geographically the strength of the language was rather diverse. The highest percentages were recorded in the tiny settlements around *Beannchar* & *Na Bothachan* (Banchor & Boath) and *Cnoc an Eòrna* & *Tom Lòin* (Knockaneorn & Tomloan) with a 40 % share of Gàidhlig speakers.

Area description:

The district lies in the south-western corner of the old county of *Narann* (Nairn) in the small parish of *Aird Chlach* (Ardclach). The settlements enumerated in 1891 included the communities and farms on the high moorland of *Monadh Fhionais* (Fleenas Moor).

Most inhabitants in dwellings like those at *Cnoc an Eòrna* (Knockaneorn) or *Fhionais* (Fleenas) were concerned with farming activities.



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. 095

Page 2 of 4

Area: Narann (Nairn): Drochaid Dhulfhasaidh, Flìonais, Beannchar, Ruigh Phuill, Na Bothachan, Tom Lòin, Pait Musach, Lùb Fhlèisteir, Drochaid Lagaidh, Ceapanach, Lainn a'Choirce, Achadh Ghobhar & Cnoc an Eòrna

	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. ³	Total ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	284	15	0	38	231	0	81	35.1 %
3-4	10		0	1	9	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	30		0	9	21	0	0	0.0 %
10-14	35		0	8	27	0	0	0.0 %
15-24	53		0	7	46	0	4	8.7 %
25-44	60		0	6	54	0	26	48.1 %
45-64	56		0	5	51	0	31	60.8 %
65+	25		0	2	23	0	20	87.0 %
Gender								
Female	153	11	0	16	126	0	42	33.3 %
Male	131	4	0	22	105	0	39	37.1 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	131	11	0	1	119	0	43	36.1 %
In neighbouring parish¹	30	0	0	4	26	0	7	26.9 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	46	0	0	20	26	0	22	84.6 %
Other places	77	4	0	13	60	0	9	15.0 %

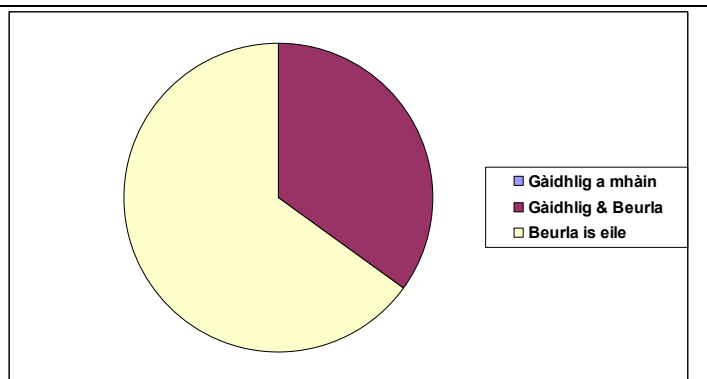
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Cawdor, Nairn, Auldearn (all Nairn), Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie (Moray) Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie Moy & Dalarossie (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.

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

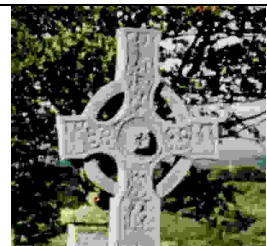
No. 095

Page 3 of 4

Area: *Narann (Nairn): Drochaid Dhulphasaidh, Flionais, Beannchar, Ruigh Phuill, Na Bothachan, Tom Lòin, Pait Musach, Lùb Fhlèisteir, Drochaid Lagaidh, Ceapanach, Lainn a'Choirce, Achadh Ghobhar & Cnoc an Eòrna*

	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Flionais & Cnoc an Eòrna</i>	51	231	0	81	35.1 %
Individual communities					
<i>Beannchar & Na Bothachan</i> (Banchor & Boath)	11	61	0	26	42.6 %
<i>Cnoc an Eòrna & Tom Lòin</i> (Knockaneorn & Tomloan)	16	70	0	28	40.0 %
<i>Drochaid Lagaidh & Ceapanach</i> (Logie Bridge & Keppernach)	11	41	0	12	29.4 %
<i>Flionais</i> (Fleenas)	10	41	0	11	26.8 %
<i>Achadh Ghobhar & Lainn a'Choirce</i> (Achagour & Lynechork)	3	18	0	4	22.2 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	9	54	0	22	40.7 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	7	24	0	13	54.2 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	2	14	0	2	14.3 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	5	35	0	1	2.9 %
Households with no children (0-14)	28	104	0	43	41.3 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	31	163	0	60	36.8 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	1	7	0	2	28.6 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	5	24	0	2	8.3 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	5	13	0	5	38.5 %
Living on private means	2	3	0	2	66.7 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	7	21	0	10	47.6 %
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. 095

Page 4 of 4

Area: *Narann (Nairn): Drochaid Dhulfhasaidh, Flionais, Beannchar, Ruigh Phuill, Na Bothachan, Tom Lòin, Pait Musach, Lùb Fhlèisteir, Drochaid Lagaidh, Ceapanach, Lainn a'Choirce, Achadh Ghobhar & Cnoc an Eòrna*

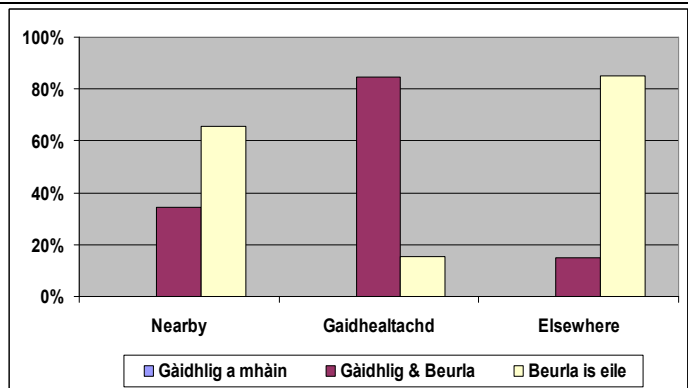
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Gàidhlig was spoken by about 40% of the locally born population. Residents born outside the *Gaidhealtachd* were very unlikely to speak the traditional tongue in this district.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Ardelach (Nairn) or the adjacent parishes of Cawdor, Nairn, Auldearn (all Nairn), Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie (Moray) Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie, Moy & Dalarossie (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 284 persons of all ages. 106 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” leading to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 37.3 %. This was only a very small over-estimate of 2.2 % compared with the realistic figures considering only the usually resident population. Reason for this peculiar result was the counting of several *Gàidhlig* speaking tinkers who happened to be present at *Cnoc an Eòrna* (Knockaneorn) at census night.