

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 097

Page 1 of 4

Area: *Arainn (Isle of Arran): An Dubh Gharadh, Bàinleacainn, An Iomachar, An Aoirinn, Allt Coileach & Am Muileann*

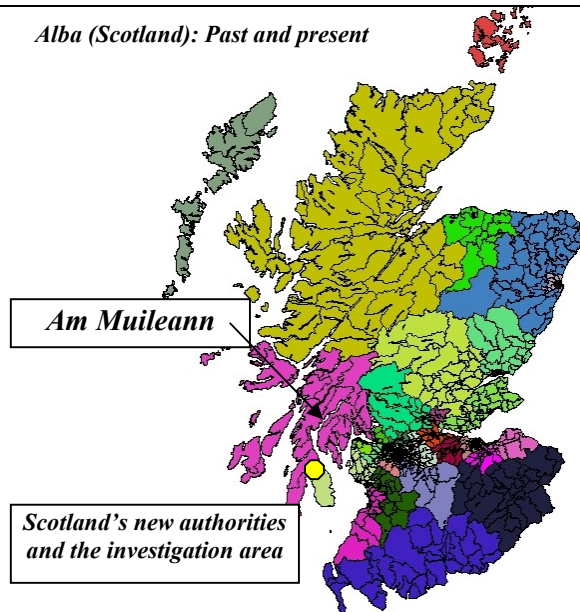
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Dougarie, Baillekin, Imachar, Whitefarland, Altgolach & Pirmill)

Number of households: 46 **Population present at census night:** 198

Share of resident population (aged 3 years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 72.9 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Buteshire	Kilmory	Lochranza	3	1 - 11

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

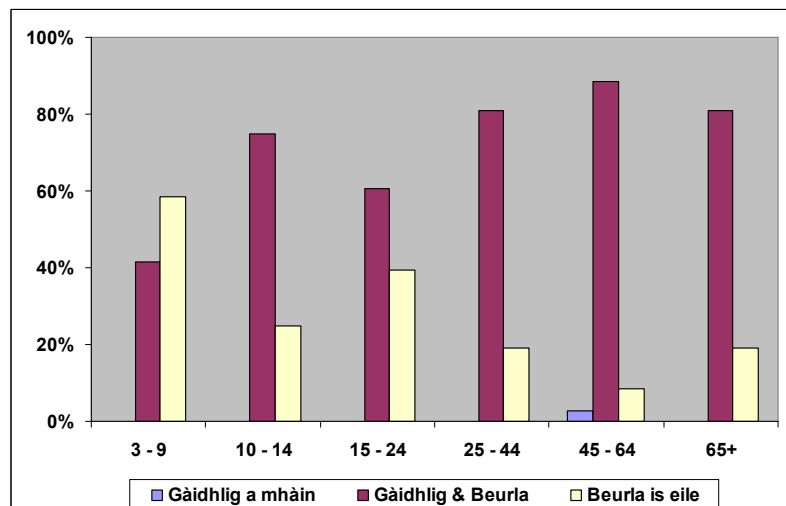
The community was overwhelmingly Gàidhlig speaking at this time. Most English monolingual persons were enumerated only among children younger than 10 years of age. The remaining “English only” residents were born mainly outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. There was only one Gàidhlig monolingual resident enumerated at this census in the district.

Between communities the percentage of Gàidhlig speakers ranged from 43 % in *An Dubh Gharadh* (Dougarie) to 100 % at *Bàinleacainn* (Baillekin).

Area description:

The area in question lies on the western coastal strip of the island of *Arainn* (Arran). As such it was part of the small county of *Siorrachd Bhòid* (Buteshire) in 1891. The small communities involved were situated between *An Dubh Gharradh* (Dougarie) and *Am Muileann* (Pirmill)

Many residents were basically concerned with fishing or shipping in general – apart from subsistence agriculture within the crofting system.



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 ⁵	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	198	12	1	4	181	1	131	72.9 %
3-4	9		1	0	8	0	3	37.5 %
5-9	21		0	0	21	0	9	42.9 %
10-14	16		0	0	16	0	12	75.0 %
15-24	30		0	2	28	0	17	60.7 %
25-44	47		0	0	47	0	38	80.9 %
45-64	36		0	1	36	1	31	91.4 %
65+	27		0	0	26	0	21	80.8 %
Gender								
Female	104	8	0	2	97	1	77	80.4 %
Male	94	7	1	2	84	0	54	64.3 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	153	12	1	2	138	1	114	83.3 %
In neighbouring parish¹	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	6	0	0	0	6	0	6	100 %
Other places	38	0	0	2	36	0	10	27.8 %

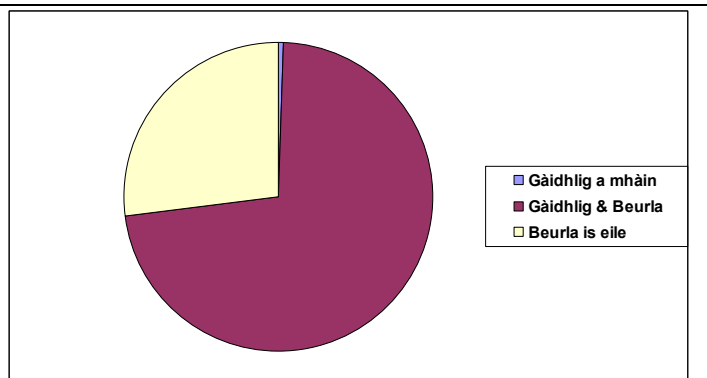
Notes:

¹ Civil parish of Kilbride (Buteshire).

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. This column includes also railway workers living in temporary huts.

⁵ 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 & Beurla, 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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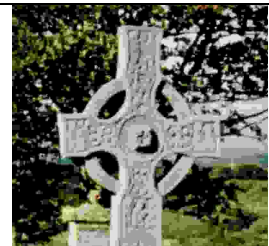
No. 097

Page 3 of 4

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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Am Muileann & An Dubh Gharadh</i>	46	181	1	131	72.9 %
Individual communities					
<i>An Dubh Gharadh (Dougarie)</i>	8	28	0	12	42.9 %
<i>Bàinleacainn (Bailekin)</i>	7	36	0	36	100 %
<i>An Iomachar (Imachar)</i>	4	19	0	12	63.2 %
<i>An Aoirinn (Whitefarland)</i>	11	39	1	36	92.3 %
<i>Allt Coileach (Altgolach)</i>	8	34	0	17	50.0 %
<i>Am Muileann (Pirmill)</i>	8	25	0	19	76.0 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	11	62	0	48	77.4 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	5	21	0	17	81.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	2	7	0	4	57.1 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	2	15	0	0	0.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	26	76	1	62	82.9 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	26	127	0	94	74.0 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	2	7	0	4	57.1 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	6	23	0	15	65.2 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	1	3	0	2	66.7 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	11	21	1	16	81.0 %
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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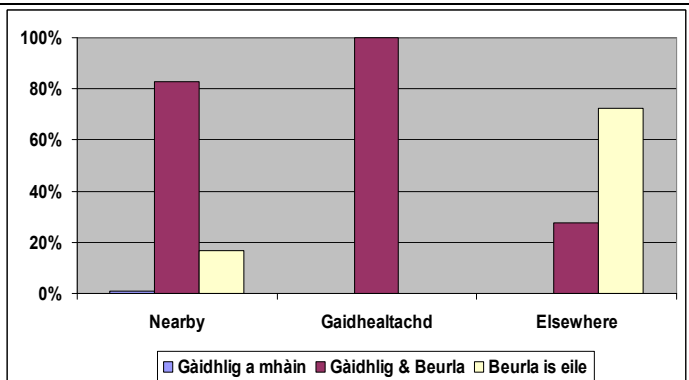
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Over four fifths of the locally born population spoke Gàidhlig. On the other hand, just a quarter of all “lowland born” residents spoke the language, too.

Notes:

¹ Born either in the parish of Kilmory (Buteshire) or in the parish of Kilbride (Buteshire).

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. In original census report terms, the district had a population of 198 persons of all ages. In total 135 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and two persons “Gaelic only”. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 69.2 %. This figure was a moderate under-estimate of 3.7 % of the figures of the usually resident population.
2. There was one “Gaelic only” return in the usually resident population: a 62-year-old retired farm servant living in *An Aoirinn* (Whitefarland). She was born locally.
3. In total 49 usually resident persons were enumerated as speaking no Gàidhlig. This group was made up of 25 “incomers” with birthplaces in the Lowlands (Ayrshire, Glasgow a. o.) or even further away. The “local” English monoglots belonged mainly to the younger generation.