

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 099

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Area: *Leamhnachd (Lennox): Gart Leac, Baile a’Mhuilinn, Stuc an t-Sagairt, Gart an Cabair, Gart an Fheàrna, Bochanan, Baile mo Thatha, Caiseal, Innis Fada, Innis Cruithneach, Druim Beag, Cnocan Riabhach, Carn Liath, Gart an Easa, Gart a’Chàirn & Druiminn*

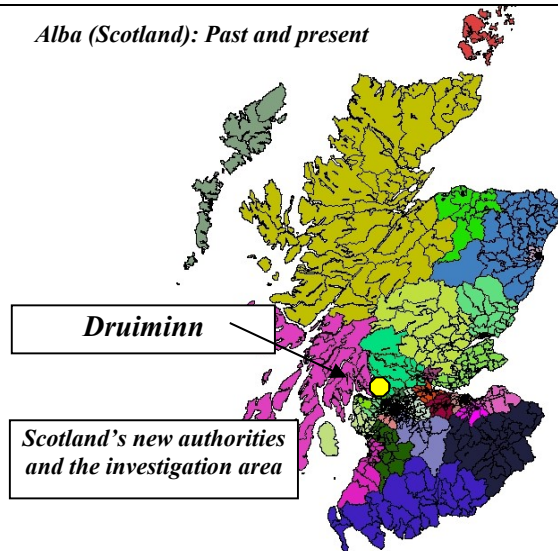
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Gartlick, Milntown, Stuckintaggart, Gartincaber, Auchan, Gartfern, Moor Park, Critichall, Coldrach, Buchanan Castle, Auchengyle, Tynunich, Balmaha, Point, Arrochybeg, Millarochy, Blair, Cashel, Inchcruiin, Inchfad, Gaidrew, Ballantone, Drumbeg, Knockanreoch, Blairnavaid, Blaireroer, Cairnlea, Lednabra, Balfunning, Clachanry, Gartness, Dalnair, Gartacharn & Drymen)

Number of households: 178 **Population present at census night:** 890

Share of resident population (aged 3 years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 5.9 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Stirlingshire	Drymen	Drymen	8	1 – 13
			2	1 - 11
	Buchanan	Buchanan	1	1 - 11
			2	1 – 5

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

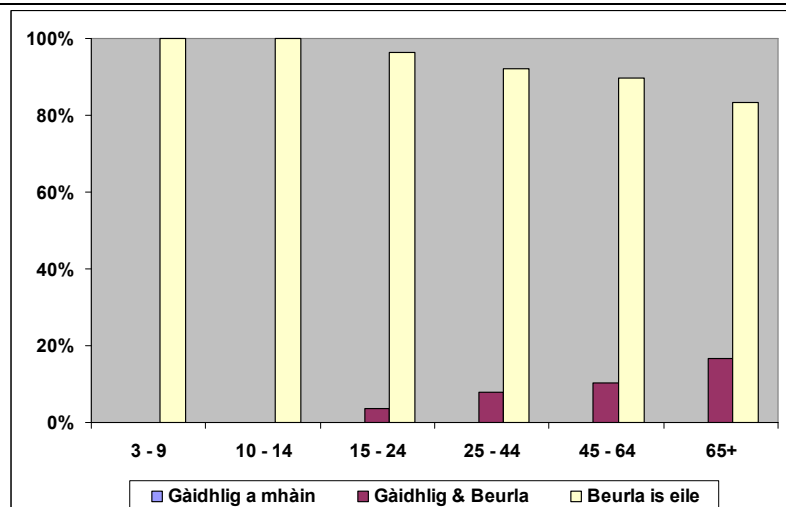
The language had essentially ceased to be spoken by the locally born population. Most of the enumerated Gàidhlig speakers in the district were born in the wider *Gaidhealtachd* further north. Just 10 locally born persons were counted as Gàidhlig speakers at the time.

From a generational point of view Gàidhlig was only prominent among those persons born in the first half of the 19th century. Not surprisingly the highest percentages of Gàidhlig speakers were found in the most northerly settlements on the shores of *Loch Laomuinn* (Loch Lomond).

Area description:

The district lies in the western corner of the old county of *Sruighlea* (Stirling). It includes inhabited islands in *Loch Laomuinn* (Loch Lomond), the dwellings around *Baile mo Thatha* (Balmaha) and *Caisteal Bhochanain* (Buchanan Castle) as well as the small market village *Druiminn* (Drymen) and its neighbouring farms.

In 1891 this was essentially agricultural land under the main control of the estate of *Bochanan* owned by the Duke of Montrose.



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 ⁵	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	890	59	0	53	778	0	46	5.9 %
3-4	41		0	1	40	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	82		0	2	80	0	0	0.0 %
10-14	97		0	2	95	0	0	0.0 %
15-24	160		0	17	143	0	5	3.5 %
25-44	246		0	14	232	0	18	7.8 %
45-64	146		0	12	134	0	14	10.4 %
65+	59		0	5	54	0	9	16.7 %
Gender								
Female	449	31	0	12	406	0	23	5.7 %
Male	441	28	0	41	372	0	23	6.2 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	382	51	0	2	329	0	3	0.9 %
In neighbouring parish¹	104	3	0	4	97	0	7	7.2 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	53	0	0	7	46	0	31	67.4 %
Other places	351	5	0	40	306	0	5	1.6 %

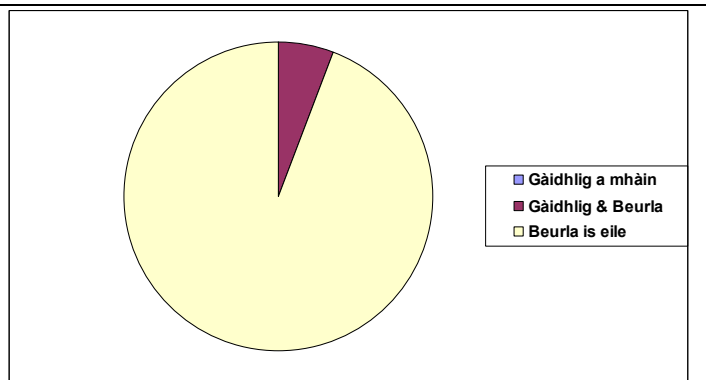
Notes:

¹ Civil parishes of Killearn, Gargunnoch, Balfron, Kippen (all Stirlingshire), or Arrochar (Dunbartonshire) or Callander, Port of Menteith and Aberfoyle (all Perthshire).

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 & 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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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Baile mo Thatha & Druiminn	178	778	0	46	5.9 %
Individual communities					
Gart Leac & Baile a'Mhuilinn (Gartleck & Milton)	24	98	0	4	4.1 %
Bochanan (Buchanan)	11	73	0	8	11.0 %
Caisteal Bhochanain (Buchanan Castle)	9	59	0	0	-
Baile mo Thatha & Achadh an Gobhail (Balmaha & Auchengyle)	9	40	0	2	5.0 %
Arrochaidh & Caiseal (Arrochy & Cashel)	6	39	0	6	15.4 %
Innis Cruithneach & Innis Fada (Inchcruin & Inchfad)	2	13	0	0	-
Druiminn (Drymen)	73	254	0	10	3.9 %
Druim Beag & Cnocan Riabhach (Drumbeg & Knockanreoch)	28	122	0	9	7.4 %
Gart an Easa (Gartness)	16	80	0	7	8.8 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	4	16	0	8	50.0 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	3	0	1	33.3 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	10	64	0	12	18.8 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	73	425	0	7	1.6 %
Households with no children (0-14)	90	270	0	18	6.7 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	31	180	0	16	8.9 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	9	44	0	5	11.4 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	9	43	0	0	0.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	33	118	0	5	4.2 %
Living on private means	5	45	0	2	4.4 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	18	62	0	2	3.2 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	73	286	0	16	5.6 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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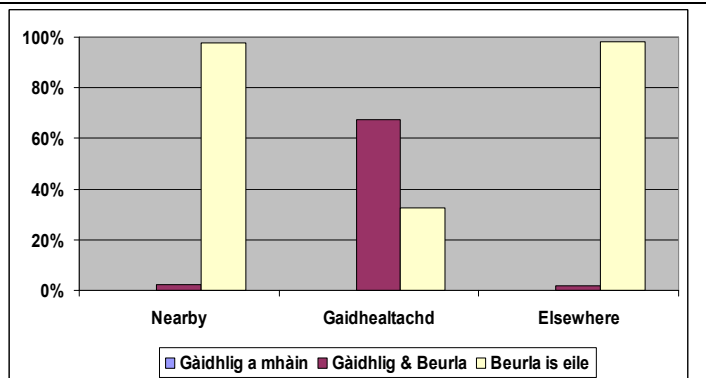
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Only a handful of Gàidhlig speakers was actually born in the district. The vast majority of enumerated speakers came originally from other parts of the *Gaidhealtachd*.

Notes:

¹ People born either in Buchanan and Drymen (Stirlingshire) or in the parishes of Killearn, Gargunnoch, Kippen, Balfron (all Stirlingshire), Arrochar (Dunbartonshire), Callander, Port of Menteith and Aberfoyle (all Perthshire).

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 890 persons of all ages. 58 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English”. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 6.5 %. This figure was a slight over-estimate of 0.6 % compared with the figures of the usually resident population.