

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: *Leamhnachd (Lennox): Àird Laoigh, An Dùn, An Garbad, Stùc an Droighinn, An Àird Mhùrlaig, Inbhir Dhùghlais, Loch Sluagh, Port Chapuill & Blàr Raineach*

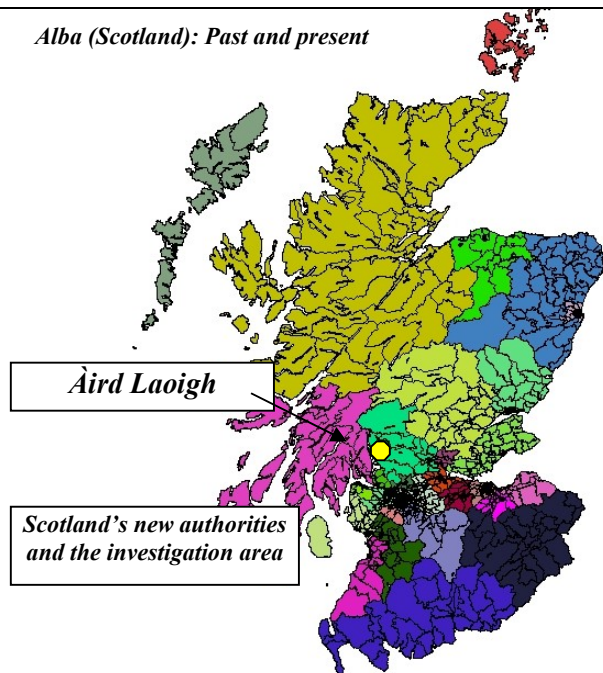
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Doune, Ardliesh, Furnace, Garbad, Old Garbad, Ardlui, Gassistuck, Stuckindroin, Ardvorlich, Inveruglas, Lochsloy, Portcapel & Blairanich)

Number of households: 45 **Population present at census night:** 691

Share of resident population (aged 3 years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 63.6 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Dunbartonshire	Arrochar	Arrochar	3	1 – 30

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

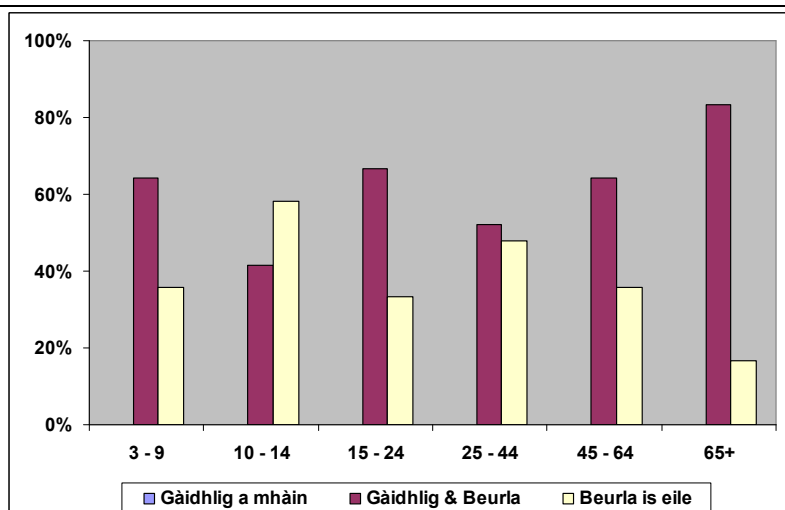
During the time of the census a large railway workforce was enumerated in this district which distorted the official census figures beyond recognition.

Looking at the usually resident population, however, the district emerged as a thoroughly Gàidhlig-speaking area. Apart from the hotel at *Aird Laoigh* (Ardlui) the language was still spoken almost universally. 25 of the 28 “English only” speakers had Lowland or England backgrounds. Local folk between *An Dùn* (Doune) and *Blàr Raineach* (Blairanach) used the traditional tongue. Even the youngest children spoke Gàidhlig.

Area description:

The district forms the northern part of the parish of *An t-Àrar* (Arrochar) on both shores of *Loch Laomuinn* (Loch Lomond). The settlements belonged in those days to the county of *Dùn Breatainn* (Dumbarton).

The area experienced a great disruption just around the census date when hundreds of railway workers and engineers were busily engaged in the erection of the railway. The remaining folk was occupied with shepherding or farming.



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	691	13	0	601	77	0	49	63.6 %
3-4	13		0	9	4	0	4	100 %
5-9	39		0	30	9	0	5	56.6 %
10-14	28		0	18	10	0	5	50.0 %
15-24	131		0	120	11	0	8	72.7 %
25-44	275		0	250	25	0	13	52.0 %
45-64	163		0	150	13	0	9	69.2 %
65+	29		0	24	6	0	5	100 %
Gender								
Female	108	5	0	69	34	0	18	52.9 %
Male	683	8	0	532	43	0	31	72.1 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	100	6	0	80	14	0	13	92.9 %
In neighbouring parish¹	10	0	0	4	6	0	6	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	66	0	0	38	28	0	26	92.9 %
Other places	515	7	0	479	29	0	4	13.8 %

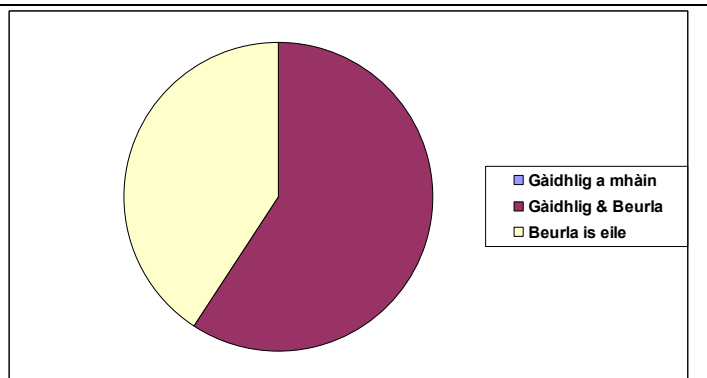
Notes:

¹ Civil parishes of Killin, Balquhider (both Perthshire), Buchanan (Stirling), Lochgoilhead & Kilmorich (Argyll) or Luss (Dunbarton).

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.org/GLP_english.htm.

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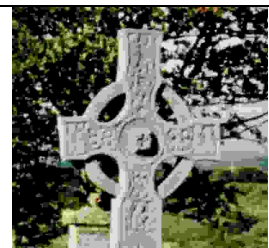
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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Àird Laoigh & Inbhir Dhùghlais</i>	45	77	0	49	63.6 %
Individual communities					
<i>An Dùn (Doune)</i>	11	18	0	17	94.4 %
<i>An Garbad (Garbad)</i>	4	8	0	8	100 %
<i>Àird Laoigh (Ardlui)</i>	3	14	0	2	14.3 %
<i>Stùc an Droighinn (Stuckendroin)</i>	4	5	0	3	60.0 %
<i>An Àird Mhùrlaig (Ardvorlich)</i>	14	4	0	3	75.0 %
<i>Inbhir Dhùghlais & Blàr Raineach (Inveruglas & Blairanaich)</i>	9	28	0	16	57.1 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	3	22	0	22	100 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	5	0	3	60.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	7	0	6	86.7 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	10	18	0	4	22.2 %
Households with no children (0-14)	30	25	0	14	56.0 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	4	27	0	24	88.9 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	4	25	0	15	60.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	6	12	0	5	41.7 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	1	1	0	1	100 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	29	9	0	4	44.4 %
Remaining occupations	1	3	0	0	0.0 %

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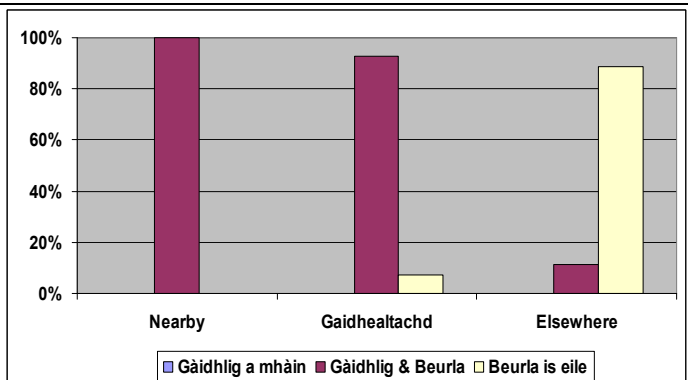
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Almost all locally born residents still spoke Gàidhlig. In contrast only a handful of persons born outside the *Gaidhealtachd* spoke the language.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Arrochar (Dunbarton) or in the parishes of Killin, Balquhidder (both Perthshire), Buchanan (Stirling), Lochgoilhead & Kilmorich (Argyll) or Luss (Dunbarton).

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. The census results for this district were heavily biased by the presence of a large workforce during the building phase of the railway. In these statistics returns of all persons living in railway huts were not considered to arrive at meaningful figures. 601 persons lived only temporarily in the area – among them 63 bilingual members of the workforce. These persons appeared in official census reports and distorted the picture considerably.
2. A two-year-old boy was the only person enumerated as not speaking English.
3. In original census report terms, the area had a population of 691 persons of all ages. 112 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English”; in addition, one person spoke “Gaelic only”. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of just 16.4 %. This figure, however, was a very high under-estimate of 47.2 % because the huge number of railway workers had been included in the “total population” of official census reports.