

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 102

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Area: *Leamhnachd (Lennox): An Tairbeart, Stùc a'Ghobhainn, An Rubha, Inbhir Beag, Cùlag, An Dùn, Tulach, Baile na Crèige, Darach, Tòrr & Aodann an t-Sagairt*

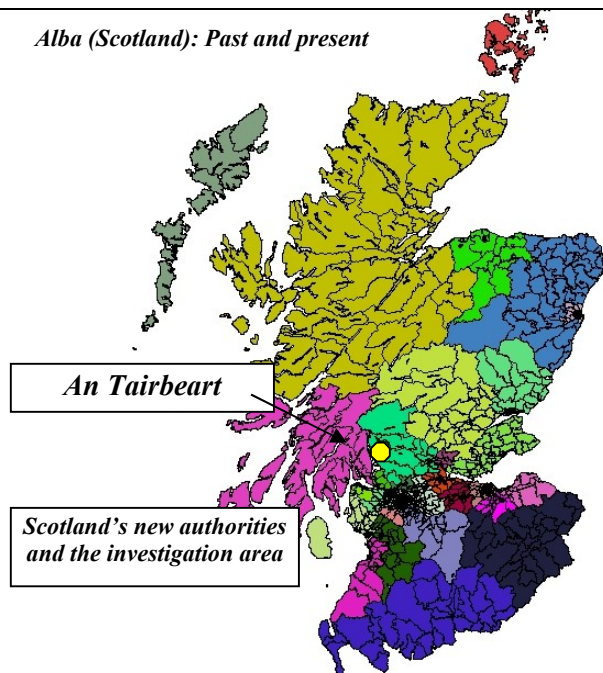
(Names of locations used on census forms: Invergoin, Firkin, Tarbet, Stuckgown, Inverhulin, Row, Inverbeg, Culage, Doune, Tullich, Craigton, Darroch, Auchengroin, Glenmallochan, Imnaglass, Torr & Eddentaggart)

Number of households: 55 Population present at census night: 339

Share of resident population (aged 3 years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 31.0 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Dunbartonshire	Arrochar	Arrochar	1	7(part) – 8
			2	1 – 6
	Luss	Luss	1	1 - 3
			2	1 - 5

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

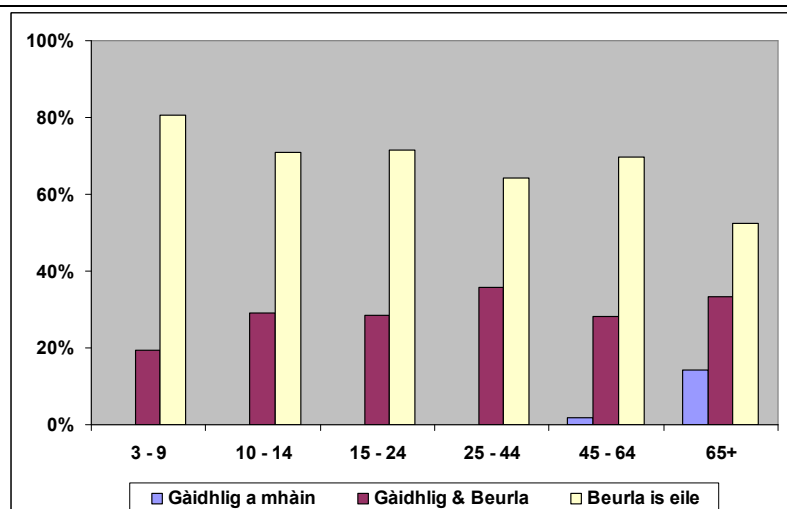
During the time of the census a large railway workforce was enumerated in this district which distorted the official census figures considerably. Nevertheless, it is quite clear that the area was situated at the language boundary in 1891.

Looking at the usually resident population, a substantial proportion of residents still spoke Gàidhlig with four persons reported as not speaking English. These speakers were rather uniformly distributed between all age groups. Stronghold of the language was of course *Gleann Dùghlais* (Glen Douglas) where 80 % of residents spoke Gàidhlig at the time. The settlements on the shores of *Loch Laomuinn* (Loch Lomond) on the other hand were far less strongly Gàidhlig speaking.

Area description:

The district occupies parts of the parishes of *An t-Àrar* (Arrochar) and *Lus* (Luss) on the western 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 many railway workers and engineers were busily engaged in the erection of the railway. The remaining “local” folk were mainly 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	339	11	0	80	248	4	73	31.0 %
3-4	14		0	1	13	0	2	15.4 %
5-9	24		0	6	18	0	4	22.2 %
10-14	37		0	6	31	0	9	29.0 %
15-24	74		0	18	56	0	16	28.6 %
25-44	95		0	39	56	0	20	36.7 %
45-64	62		0	9	53	1	15	30.2 %
65+	22		0	1	21	3	7	47.6 %
Gender								
Female	160	7	0	19	134	3	31	25.4 %
Male	179	4	0	61	114	1	42	37.7 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	79	10	0	0	69	0	17	24.6 %
In neighbouring parish¹	35	0	0	4	31	1	8	29.0 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	73	0	0	12	61	2	45	77.0 %
Other places	152	1	0	64	87	1	3	4.6 %

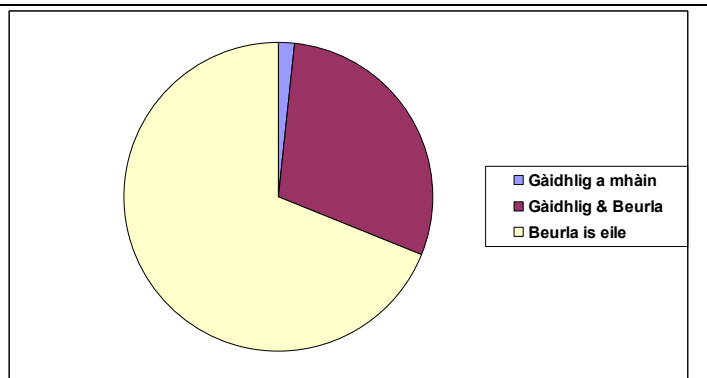
Notes:

¹ Civil parishes of Killin, Balquhider (both Perthshire), Buchanan (Stirling), Lochgoilhead & Kilmorich (Argyll) or Rhu (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.de/GLP_english.htm.

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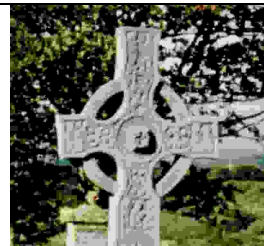
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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
An Tairbeart & Gleann Dùghlais	55	248	4	73	31.0 %
Individual communities					
<i>An Tairbeart</i> (Tarbet)	16	71	1	18	26.8 %
<i>Inbhir Beag</i> (Inverbeg)	12	60	1	19	33.3 %
<i>Gleann Dùghlais</i> (Glen Douglas)	4	25	0	20	80.0 %
<i>Gleann Luis</i> (Glen Luss)	23	92	2	16	19.6 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	6	37	0	27	73.0 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	2	6	0	4	66.7 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	2	14	0	5	35.7 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	16	101	0	7	6.9 %
Households with no children (0-14)	29	90	4	30	37.8 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	9	50	0	11	22.0 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	7	31	2	19	67.7 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	3	10	0	5	50.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	6	25	1	2	12.0 %
Living on private means	3	20	0	5	25.0 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	10	49	0	9	18.4 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	14	51	1	21	43.1 %
Remaining occupations	3	12	0	1	8.3 %

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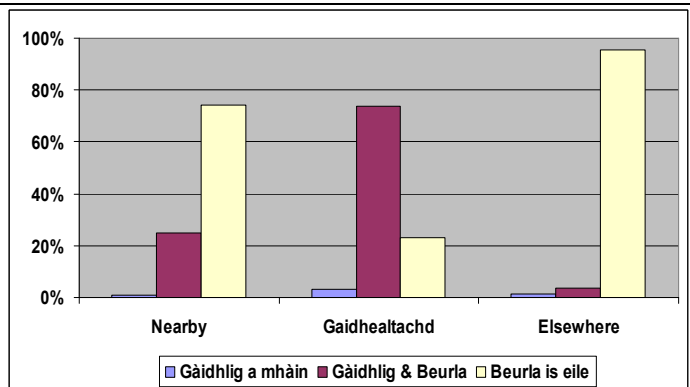
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The district was situated on the language boundary. Some 20% of all locally born residents spoke Gàidhlig and almost none born outside the *Gaidhealtachd* spoke this traditional language.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Arrochar, Luss (both Dunbarton) or in the parishes of Killin, Balquhidder (both Perthshire), Buchanan (Stirling), Lochgoilhead & Kilmorich (Argyll) or Rhu (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. 80 persons lived only temporarily in the area – among them 13 bilingual members of the workforce. These persons appeared in official census reports and distorted the picture considerably.
2. Four persons were enumerated as not speaking English. This group comprised of a 65-year-old gamekeeper, a 54-year-old wife of a slate quarryman, a 67-year-old shepherd's widow and a 82 year old sister of a retired blacksmith.
3. In original census report terms, the area had a population of 339 persons of all ages. 90 enumerated inhabitants spoke "Gaelic and English"; in addition, four persons spoke "Gaelic only". This led to an "official" share of Gàidhlig speakers of 27.7 %. This figure, however, was an under-estimate of 3.3 % caused mainly by including several railway workers in the "total population" of official census reports.