

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 105

Page 1 of 4

Area: *Gleann Eilg (Glenelg): Baile a’Mhuilinn, Sgalasaig, Iomair a’Ghreadain, An Glìb, Eilean Riabhach, Còrr Àirigh, Baile Bhràid, Suardalan, Bealach Easan, Am Maol, Baile Àirigh, Sanndaig, Rarsaigh, An Camas Bàn, Àrnasdal, Creanach, Còrran, An Caolas Mòr & Ceann Loch Shubhairne*

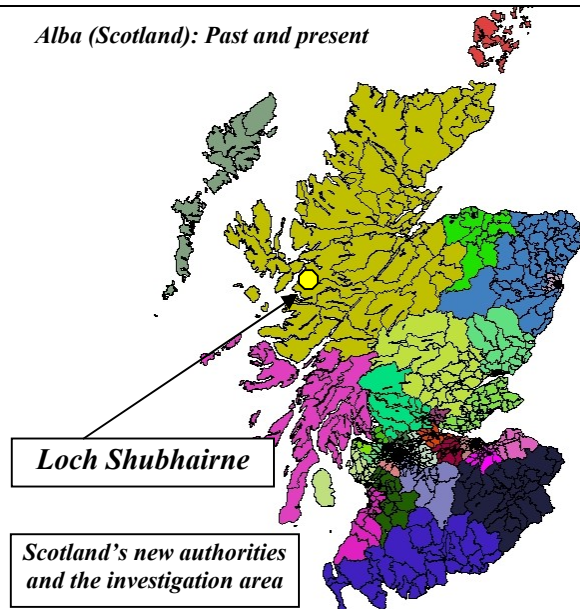
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Milton, Scallisaig House, Imergraden, Glebe, Eilanreach House, Eilanreach, Corrary House, Garasie, Balvraid, Swordlaw, Ballachasan, Myle, Biolary, Sandaig, Rassay, Camusbane, Arnisdale, Creanach, Corran, Caolis Mor & Lochornhead)

Number of households: 83 Population present at census night: 387

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 98.0 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Inverness	Glenelg	Glenelg	2 3	1 – 7 1 - 10

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

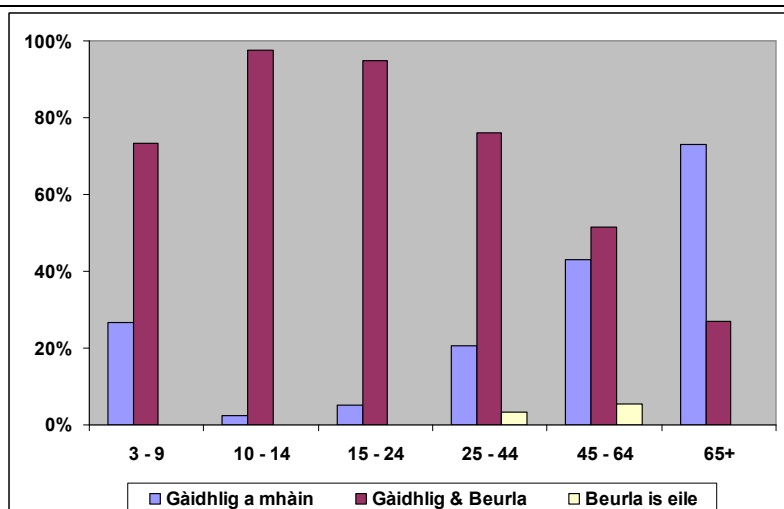
The usually resident population was almost exclusively Gàidhlig speaking. Only seven persons from outside the *Gaidhealtachd* did speak English only. All children spoke the traditional tongue. Most monolingual Gàidhlig speakers (who made up more than a quarter of all speakers) were already older than 45 years, however.

All settlements (besides *Àrnasdal*) were overwhelmingly Gàidhlig speaking with the crofting township of *An Camas Bàn* (Cambusbane) boasting the biggest proportion of monolingual Gàidhlig speakers.

Area description:

The small communities under consideration are situated in the remote *Gleann Eilg* (Glenelg) district on the west coast of the old county of *Inbhirnis* (Inverness). The farms and crofting hamlets were found in the narrow valleys *Gleann Mòr* (Glen More) and *Gleann Beag* (Glen Beg) and on the northern shores of *Loch Shubhairne* (Loch Hourn).

Almost all inhabitants were either reliant on crofting activities or worked for their landlords as servants or shepherds.



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. 105

Page 2 of 4

Area: *Gleann Eilg (Glenelg): Baile a'Mhuilinn, Sgalasaig, Iomair a'Ghreadain, An Glìb, Eilean Riabhach, Còrr Àirigh, Baile Bhràid, Suardalan, Bealach Easan, Am Maol, Baile Àirigh, Sanndaig, Rarsaigh, An Camas Bàn, Àrnasdal, Creanach, Còrran, An Caolas Mòr & Ceann Loch Shubhairne*

	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. ³	Total ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	387	25	0	19	343	93	243	98.0 %
3-4	10		0	0	10	4	6	100 %
5-9	35		0	0	35	8	27	100 %
10-14	41		0	1	40	1	39	100 %
15-24	61		0	4	57	3	54	100 %
25-44	103		0	11	92	19	70	96.7 %
45-64	73		0	1	72	31	37	94.4 %
65+	39		0	2	37	27	10	100 %
Gender								
Female	191	14	0	3	174	55	116	98.3 %
Male	196	11	0	16	169	38	127	97.6 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	265	24	0	5	236	78	158	100 %
In neighbouring parish¹	17	0	0	2	15	1	14	100 %
Gàidhealtachd elsewhere²	83	1	0	11	71	14	57	100 %
Other places	22	0	0	1	21	0	14	66.7 %

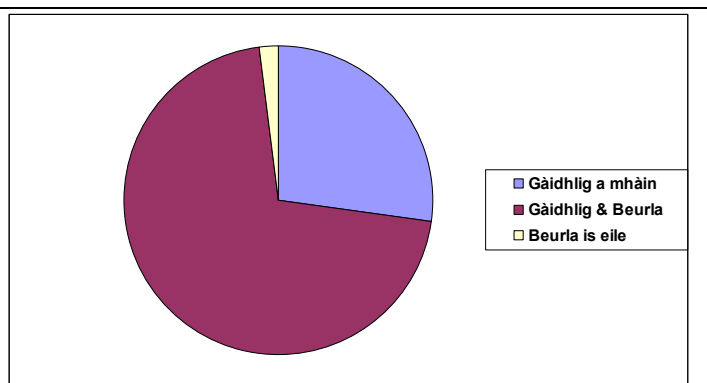
Notes:

¹Parishes of Glenshiel (Ross & Cromarty) or Arisaig & Moidart or Kilmonivaig (both Inverness-shire).

²Other 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

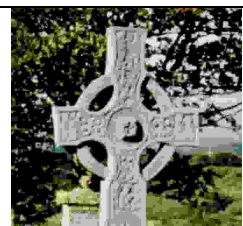
No. 105

Page 3 of 4

Area: *Gleann Eilg (Glenelg): Baile a'Mhuilinn, Sgalasaig, Iomair a'Ghreadain, An Glìb, Eilean Riabhach, Còrr Àirigh, Baile Bhràid, Suardalan, Bealach Easan, Am Maol, Baile Àirigh, Sanndaig, Rarsaigh, An Camas Bàn, Àrnasdal, Creanach, Còrran, An Caolas Mòr & Ceann Loch Shubhairne*

	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Gleann Mòr & Loch Shubhairne</i>	83	343	93	243	98.0 %
Individual communities					
<i>Sgalasaig & Iomair a'Ghreadain</i> (Scallasaig & Imergraden)	10	44	12	32	100 %
<i>Eilean Riabhach & Baile Bhràid</i> (Eileanreich & Balvraid)	10	51	8	40	94.1 %
<i>Bealach Easan & Am Maol</i> (Ballachasan & Myle)	6	37	6	30	97.3 %
<i>Sanndaig & Rarsaigh</i> (Sandaig & Rarsay)	2	11	2	9	100 %
<i>An Camas Bàn</i> (Cambusbane)	27	98	42	56	100 %
<i>Àrnasdal</i> (Arnisdale)	3	6	1	2	50.0 %
<i>Còrran & Creanach</i> (Corran & Creanach)	19	68	19	49	100 %
<i>Ceann Loch Shubhairne & An Caolas Mòr</i> (Kinlochhourn & Caolis Mor)	6	28	3	25	100 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	21	127	23	103	99.2 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	18	72	19	53	100 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	1	4	0	2	50.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	43	140	51	58	97.1 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	41	161	57	101	98.1 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	19	106	17	86	97.2 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	3	10	3	6	90.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	8	34	1	33	100 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	12	32	15	17	100 %
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. 105

Page 4 of 4

Area: *Gleann Eilg (Glenelg): Baile a'Mhuilinn, Sgalasaig, Iomair a'Ghreadain, An Glìb, Eilean Riabhach, Còrr Àirigh, Baile Bhràid, Suardalan, Bealach Easan, Am Maol, Baile Àirigh, Sanndaig, Rarsaigh, An Camas Bàn, Àrnasdal, Creanach, Còrran, An Caolas Mòr & Ceann Loch Shubhairne*

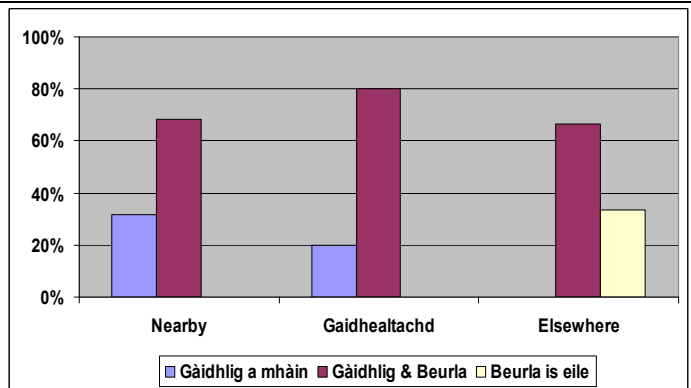
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The few non-Gàidhlig speakers originated exclusively from outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. The monolingual Gàidhlig speakers were more frequently found among those born nearby than among residents born further away in the wider *Gaidhealtachd*.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Glenelg or in the adjacent parishes of Glenshiel (Ross & Cromarty) or Arisaig & Moidart and Kilmonivaig (both Inverness-shire).

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 seven persons in the usually resident population who did not have a “G&E” or “G” marked on their registration sheet. All were born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. In *Àrnasdal* (Arnisdale) the local schoolteacher and a shepherd’s couple (all from Dumfries-shire) did not speak the traditional tongue. At Eileanreach House the farmer himself (born in Erskine in Renfrewshire), a valet from Middlesex and an “engineer on yacht” from Ireland) were counted as non-Gàidhlig speakers. Finally a 64-year-old shepherd’s mother at *Baile Àirigh* (Beolary) did not speak Gàidhlig: Her birthplace was Kirkmichael in Ayrshire.
2. In original census report terms, the whole community in total had a population of 387 persons of all ages. 267 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 100 persons were reported as monolingual Gàidhlig speakers. These figures led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 94.8 %. A comparison with the more realistic statistics of this factsheet reveals that this percentage was a slight under-estimate of 3.2 % caused by the inclusion of under-three olds and visitors in the official population base.