

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 106

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Area: *Arainn (Isle of Arran): Sannaig Meadhonach, Sannaig a Tuath, Sannaig a Deas, Achag, Am Marg & An Coire*

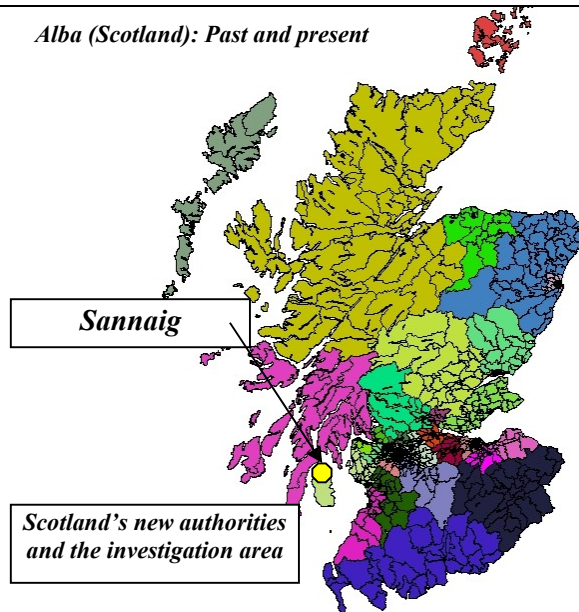
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Mid Sannox, North Sannox, South Sannox, High Corrie, Low Corrie, Carlo, Marchland)

Number of households: 73 **Population present at census night:** 296

Share of resident population (aged 3 years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 26.5 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Buteshire	Kilmory Kilbride	Lochranza Brodick	1	1 – 2(part)
			1	1 - 11

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

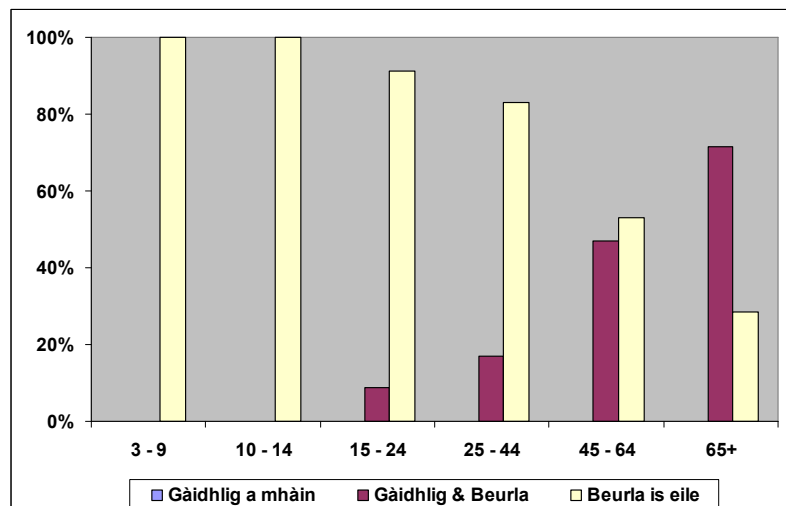
The community generally had ceased to be thoroughly Gàidhlig-speaking around 1850. Very few middle-aged persons still spoke the traditional language and there were no Gàidhlig speaking children returned in the 1891 census. Moreover, all speakers were reported as bilingual persons – no monolingual Gàidhlig speakers were left in the area.

Geographically the incidence of Gàidhlig speaking was highest around the village of *An Coire* (Corrie) with roughly a third of usually resident persons still speaking Gàidhlig.

Area description:

The area lies on the eastern 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 *Sannaig* (Sannox) and *Am Marg* (Merkland) including the village of *An Coire* (Corrie).

People were traditionally engaged in quarrying, farming, and marine occupations. However, the trade of “tourism” had already produced quite a few visitor-based enterprises like boarding houses and hotels.



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	296	22	0	14	260	0	69	26.5 %
3-4	11		0	0	11	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	31		0	0	31	0	0	0.0 %
10-14	15		0	1	14	0	0	0.0 %
15-24	48		0	2	46	0	4	8.7 %
25-44	72		0	7	65	0	11	16.9 %
45-64	53		0	2	51	0	24	47.1 %
65+	44		0	2	42	0	30	71.4 %
Gender								
Female	166	10	0	6	149	0	41	27.5 %
Male	131	12	0	8	111	0	28	25.2 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	185	21	0	1	163	0	40	24.5 %
In neighbouring parish¹	18	0	0	0	18	0	17	94.4 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	9	0	0	0	9	0	8	88.9 %
Other places	84	1	0	13	70	0	4	5.7 %

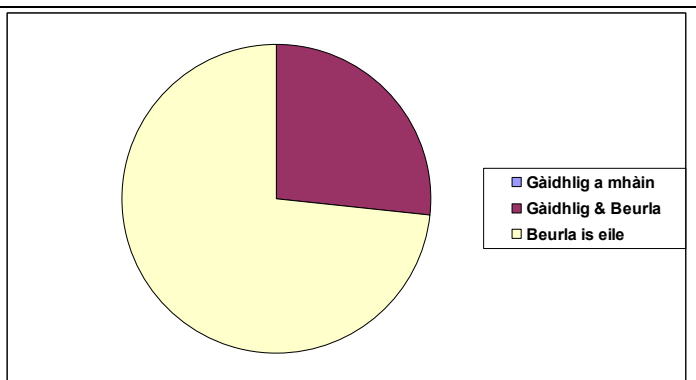
Notes:

¹ Civil parish of Kilmory (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 also includes e.g. 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 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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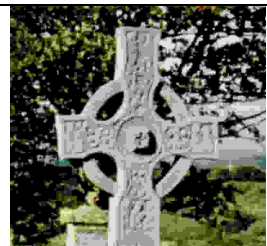
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Area: *Arainn* (Isle of Arran): *Sannaig Meadhonach*, *Sannaig a Tuath*, *Sannaig a Deas*, *Achag*, *Am Marg & An Coire*

	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	<i>Gàidhlig</i>	<i>Gàidhlig</i> & English	<i>Gàidhlig</i> speakers (%)
<i>Sannaig & An Coire</i>	73	260	0	69	26.5 %
Individual communities					
<i>Sannaig Meadhonach & Sannaig a Tuath</i> (Mid Sannox & North Sannox)	15	68	0	12	17.6 %
<i>Sannaig a Deas & An Coire</i> (South Sannox & Corrie)	53	171	0	56	33.3 %
<i>Am Marg</i> (Merkland)	5	21	0	1	4.8 %
Language of parents					
Both parents <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	9	36	0	15	41.7 %
Single parent <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	4	16	0	4	25.0 %
One parent <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	3	20	0	4	20.0 %
No <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking parent	15	69	0	1	1.4 %
Households with no children (0-14)	42	119	0	45	37.8 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	14	59	0	16	27.1 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	2	10	0	2	20.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	6	0	1	16.7 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	12	48	0	9	18.8 %
Living on private means	6	20	0	6	30.0 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	7	28	0	8	28.6 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	31	89	0	27	30.3 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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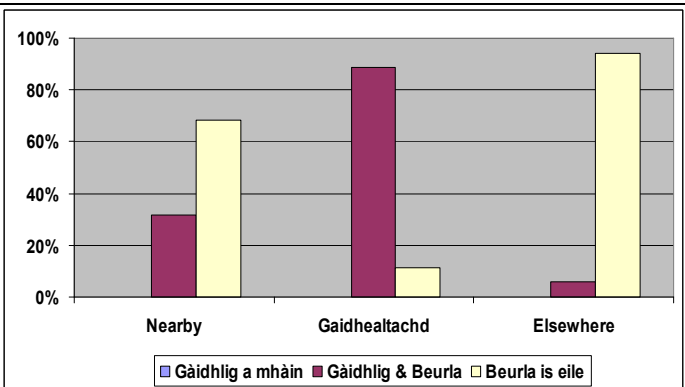
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Older people among the locally born population were mostly Gàidhlig-speaking. Only a tiny fraction born outside the *Gaidhealtachd* spoke the language.

Notes:

¹ Born either in the parish of Kilmory (Buteshire) or in the parish of Kilbride (Buteshire). This means they had a birthplace on the island of *Arainn* (Arran).

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 296 persons of all ages. In total 69 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English”. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 23.3 %. This figure was a moderate under-estimate of 3.2 % of the figures of the usually resident population.
2. There was no “Gaelic only” return in the usually resident population.