

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 107

Page 1 of 4

**Area:** *Arainn (Isle of Arran): An t-Achadh Mòr, Tòrr na Gaoithe, Lèanaidh Mòr, An Cràdha, Catagal & Peighinn Riabhach*

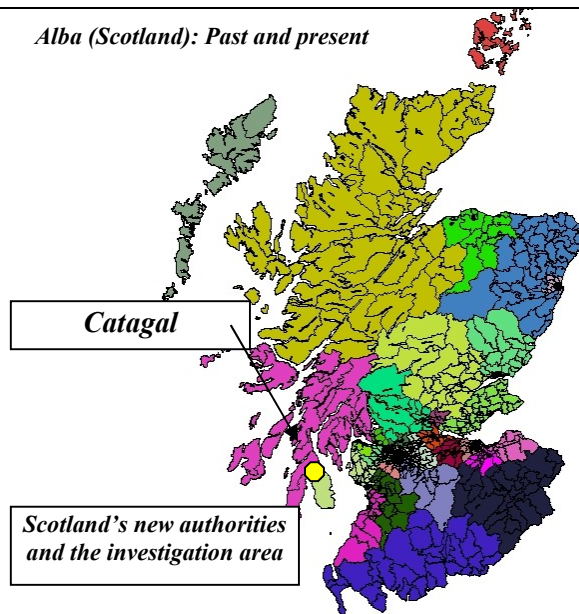
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Achimore, Thundergay, Lenimore, Craw, Caticol & Penrioch)

**Number of households:** 52      **Population present at census night:** 229

**Share of resident population (aged 3 years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 86.1 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Buteshire	Kilmory	Lochranza	2	1 - 9
			3	12 - 15

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

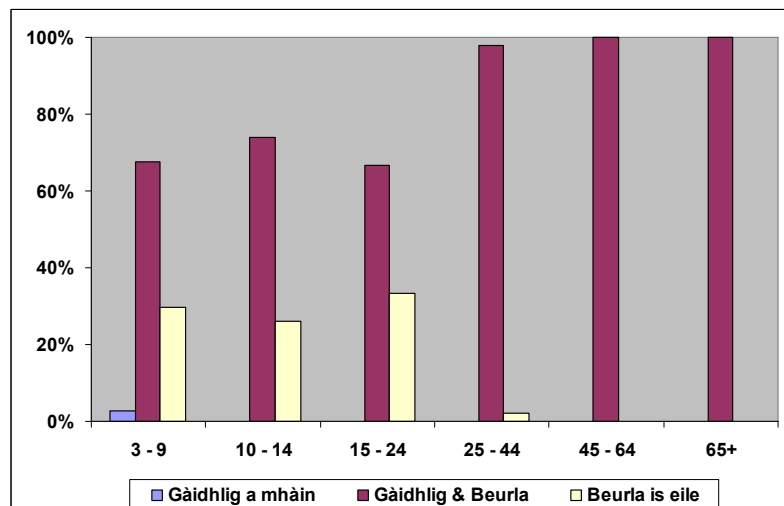
The community was overwhelmingly Gàidhlig speaking at this time and as such the villages were among the most important strongholds of the language on the island. Only some younger people (mostly from the Lowlands) did not speak the traditional language of the island. Two young girls were still reported as not speaking English.

The strongest language communities were to be found in *Catagal* (Catacol) and *An t-Achadh Mòr* (Achimore) with more than 90% of the usually resident population speaking Gàidhlig.

## Area description:

The area in question lies on the western 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 *An t-Achadh Mòr* (Achimore) and *Peighinn Riabhach* (Penrioch)

Many residents were basically concerned with fishing or shipping in general – apart from subsistence agriculture within the crofting system.



Age profile: Share of population speaking (1) Gàidhlig, (2) Gàidhlig & English, or (3) no Gàidhlig at all

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No. 107

Page 2 of 4

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	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. <sup>3</sup>	Total <sup>5</sup>	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>86.1 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>78.6 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>65.2 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>73.9 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>66.7 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>55</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>98.0 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>90.7 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>80.6 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>93.9 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>35.7 %</b>

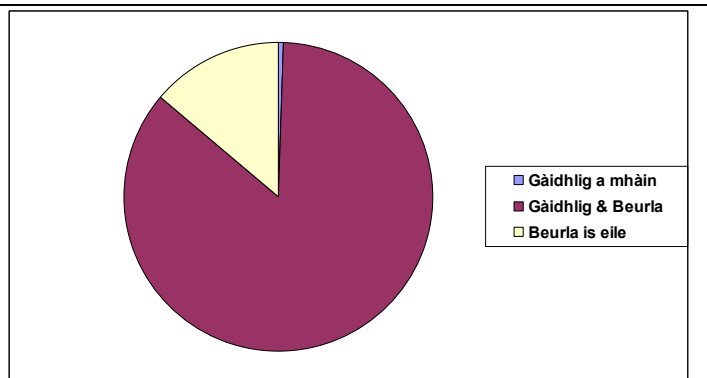
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Civil parish of Kilbride (Buteshire).

<sup>2</sup> Other parishes in Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.

<sup>3</sup> People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers, or other similar terms. This column also includes railway workers living in temporary huts.

<sup>5</sup> 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](http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP_english.htm).

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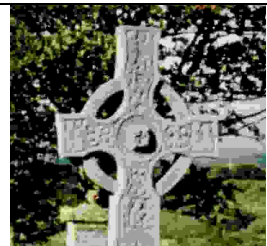
No. 107

Page 3 of 4

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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Tòrr na Gaoithe &amp; Catagal</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>86.1 %</b>
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>An t-Achadh Mòr</i> (Achimore)	3	11	0	10	90.9 %
<i>Tòrr na Gaoithe</i> (Thundergay)	7	24	0	22	81.3 %
<i>Lèanaidh Mòr</i> (Lenimore)	6	20	0	16	80.0 %
<i>An Cràdha</i> (Craw)	3	16	0	13	81.3 %
<i>Catagal</i> (Catacol)	18	76	0	70	92.1 %
<i>Peighinn Riabhach</i> (Penrioch)	15	54	1	41	77.8 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
<b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>88.2 %</b>
<b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>80.0 %</b>
<b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>89.2 %</b>
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
<b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>86.8 %</b>
<b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>92.9 %</b>
<b>Living on private means</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>80.4 %</b>
<b>Remaining occupations</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>

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Page 4 of 4

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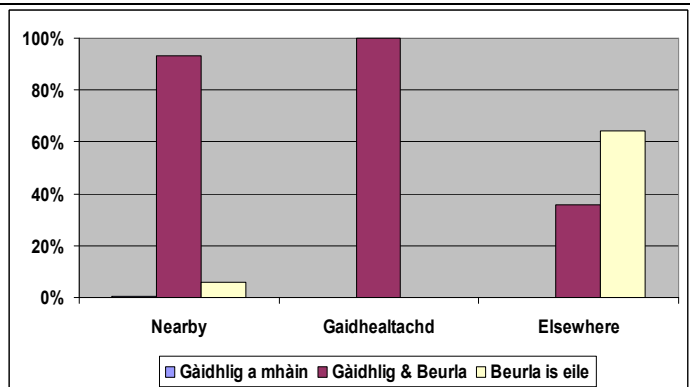
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Over four fifths of the locally born population spoke Gàidhlig. On the other hand just a quarter of all “lowland born” residents spoke the language, too.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> Born in other parishes of Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.



Speakers according to place of birth (1) nearby<sup>1</sup>  
(2) in remaining *Gaidhealtachd*<sup>2</sup>, or (3) elsewhere

## Remarks:

1. In original census report terms, the district had a population of 229 persons of all ages. In total 181 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and two persons “Gaelic only”. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 80.0 %. This figure was a moderate under-estimate of 6.1 % of the figures of the usually resident population.
2. There was one “Gaelic only” return in the usually resident population above the age of two: a three-year-old girl living in *Peighinn Riabhach* (Penrioch). She was born locally. A one-year-old girl at *An t-Achadh Mòr* (Achimore) was additionally counted as monolingual Gàidhlig speaker.
3. In total 28 usually resident persons were enumerated as speaking no Gàidhlig. This group was made up of 18 “incomers” with birthplaces in the Lowlands (Ayrshire, Glasgow a. o.) or even further away. The remaining “local” English monoglots belonged mainly to the younger generation.