

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 110

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Area: *Srath Spè* (Strathspey): *Cam Riabhach, Abhaidh, Garbh Allt, Loch Monaidh, Dail Meadhonach, Seann Bhaile, An Creagan Mòr, Drochaid Athfhinn & Baile na Dàlach*

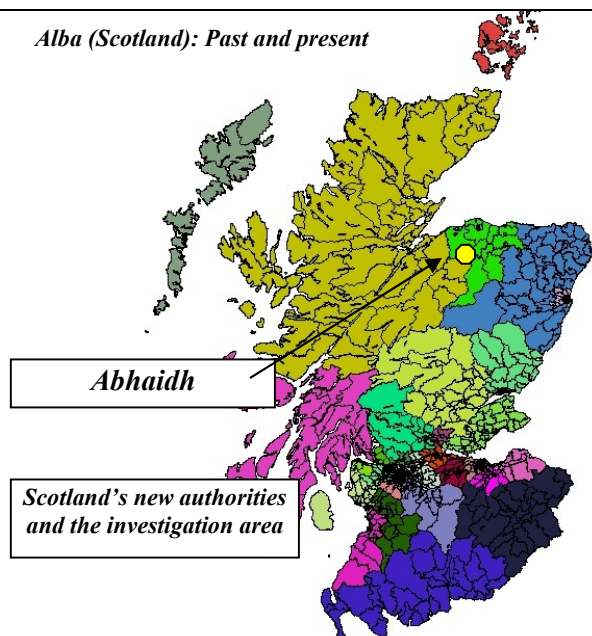
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Shennock, Auldengoun, Balnallan, Milton, Dalvey, Dewar, Camriach, Advie, Bogg, Garvoul, Torremone, Lochmone, Faanmore, Deldow, Delmenach, Shenval, Kilmaichlie, Faemore, Belleville, Dunagrain, Cragganmore, Bridge of Avon, Marionburgh & Ballindalloch)

Number of households: 115 Population present at census night: 615

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 8.0 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Banff	Inveravon	Inveravon	1 3	1 – 4(part) 1 - 15
Moray	Inverallan, Cromdale & Advie	Cromdale	3	1 - 10

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

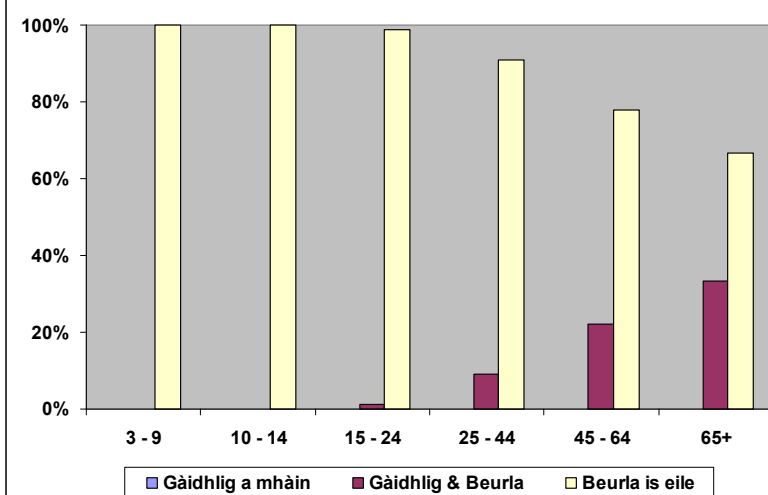
The area under consideration was situated to the east of the language frontier in 1891. At this time the language was used only by older people – quite a number of these Gàidhlig speakers were born in the wider *Gaidhealtachd* further west. Nonetheless a third of usually resident persons beyond the age of 64 still spoke the traditional tongue in the district. Most of the speakers were male persons.

The language was comparatively strong in the western part of the area around *Abhaidh* (Advie).

Area description:

The district under consideration lies in the south-western parts of the old counties of *Moireabh* (Moray) and *Banbh* (Banff). The settlements enumerated in 1891 were situated on the south bank of *Uisge Spè* (River Spey) downstream to *Caisteal Baile na Dàlach* (Ballindalloch Castle).

Essentially this was farming and distilling countryside in 1891. The inhabitants lived in a scattered patchwork of tiny groups of houses and farms on comparatively fertile soils.



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 ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	615	50	0	40	525	0	42	8.0 %
3-4	31		0	1	30	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	78		0	1	77	0	0	0.0 %
10-14	78		0	2	76	0	0	0.0 %
15-24	104		0	14	90	0	1	1.1 %
25-44	159		0	14	145	0	13	9.0 %
45-64	73		0	5	68	0	15	22.1 %
65+	42		0	3	39	0	13	33.3 %
Gender								
Female	284	25	0	6	253	0	11	4.3 %
Male	331	25	0	34	272	0	31	11.4 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	306	39	0	7	260	0	18	6.9 %
In neighbouring parish¹	77	0	0	0	77	0	6	7.8 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	24	1	0	5	18	0	10	56.6 %
Other places	208	10	0	28	170	0	8	4.7 %

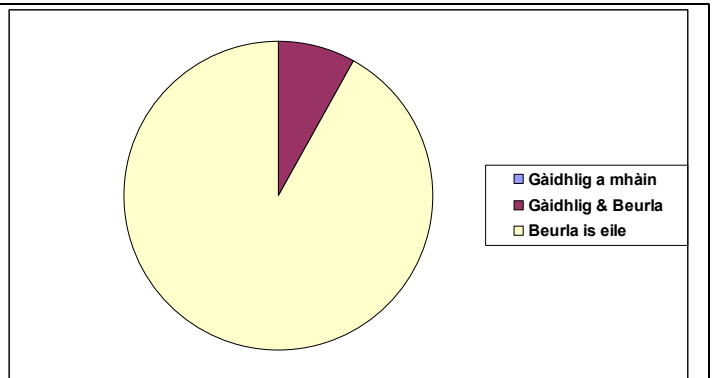
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Knockando, Dyke, Edinkillie (all Moray); Ardlach (Nairn), Kirkmichael (Banff); Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie (all Inverness).

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.

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.

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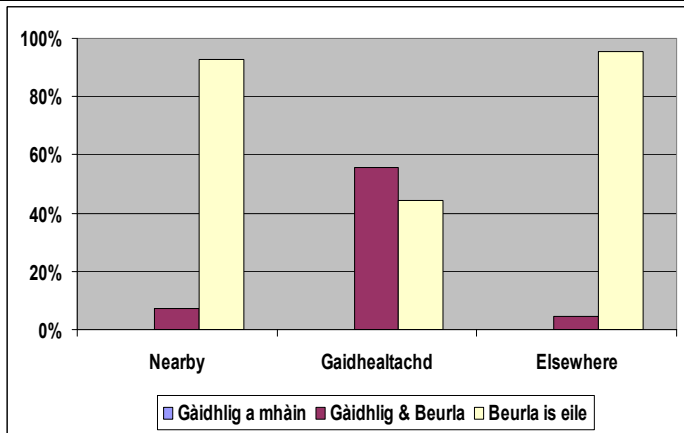
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Gàidhlig was spoken only with almost no exception by persons born in the wider *Gaidhealtachd*.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Edinkillie or Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie (all Moray) or in the adjacent parishes of Knockando, Dyke (both Moray); Ardlach (Nairn), Kirkmichael, Inveravon (both Banff); Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie (all Inverness).

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 615 persons of all ages. In total 45 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English”. The “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers accordingly was 7.3 %. This was a small under-estimate of 0.7 % compared with the realistic figures considering only the usually resident population.