

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 113

Page 1 of 4

Area: *Dig (Dyke): Taranaich & Lagaidh Bochanach*

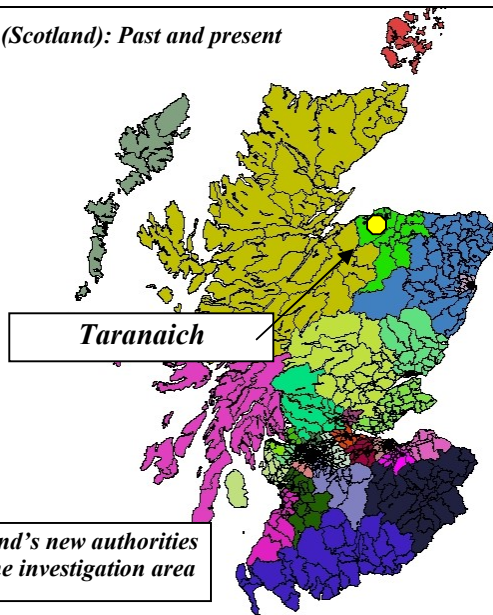
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Whitemyre, Darnaway, Logiebuchany)

Number of households: 35 Population present at census night: 157

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 17.9 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Morayshire	Dyke	Dyke	1	1 - 7

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

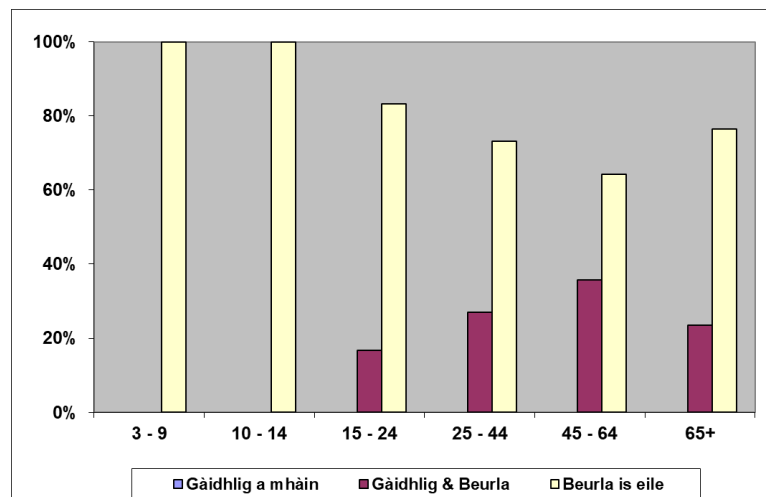
The parish of *Dig (Dyke)* in general seized to be part of the *Gaidhealtachd* some decades before this census was taken.

However, people moved in from lands further west in search of work and a better future. Accordingly, some Gàidhlig speakers were still found around the castle of *Taranaich (Darnaway)* in 1891. The age profile of the recorded Gàidhlig speakers (see figure below), however, presented the state of the language very clearly: No children younger than 15 spoke Gàidhlig! Even if one head of the family knew it, he or she did not pass it over to the next generation.

Area description:

The region is situated almost halfway between the towns of *Narainn (Nairn)* and *Farrais (Forres)* with the parishes of *Allt Eireann (Auldearn)* and *Aodainn Choille (Edinkillie)* as largest neighbours.

Some people were dependent on the estate of *Taranais (Darnaway)*. Others were employed in the small village of Whitemyre or active in the farming business.



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. 113

Page 2 of 4

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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	157	7	0	10	140	0	25	17.9 %
3-4	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	20	0	0	2	0	0	0	0.0 %
10-14	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
15-24	25	0	0	1	0	0	4	16.7 %
25-44	29	0	0	3	0	0	7	26.9 %
45-64	31	0	0	3	0	0	10	35.7 %
65+	17	0	0	0	0	0	4	23.5 %
Gender								
Female	86	3	0	3	0	0	15	18.8 %
Male	71	4	0	7	0	0	10	16.7 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	63	5	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
In neighbouring parish¹	34	0	0	0	0	0	2	5.9 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	28	0	0	1	0	0	21	77.8 %
Other places	32	2	0	9	0	0	2	9.5 %

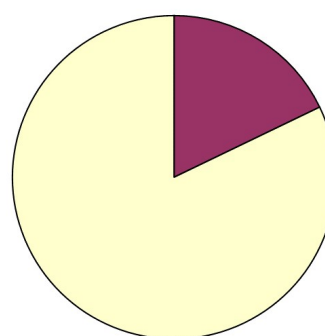
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Auldearn (Nairnshire), Edinkillie or Forres (both in Morayshire).

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 & 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.

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 113

Page 3 of 4

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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Taranaich & Lagaidh Bochanach</i>	35	140	0	25	17.9 %
Individual communities					
<i>Whitemyre</i> (Whitemyre)	24	104	0	17	16.3 %
<i>Taranaich & Lagaidh Bochanach</i> (Darnaway & Logiebuchany)	11	36	0	8	22.2 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	3	0	1	33.3 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	9	69	0	14	20.3 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	6	28	0	1	3.6 %
Households with no children (0-14)	19	40	0	9	22.5 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	5	29	0	9	31.0 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	3	20	0	1	5.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	5	0	0	0.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	4	23	0	5	21.7 %
Living on private means	2	3	0	0	0.0 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	6	13	0	2	15.4 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	13	47	0	8	17.9 %
Remaining occupations	1	0	0	0	0.0 %

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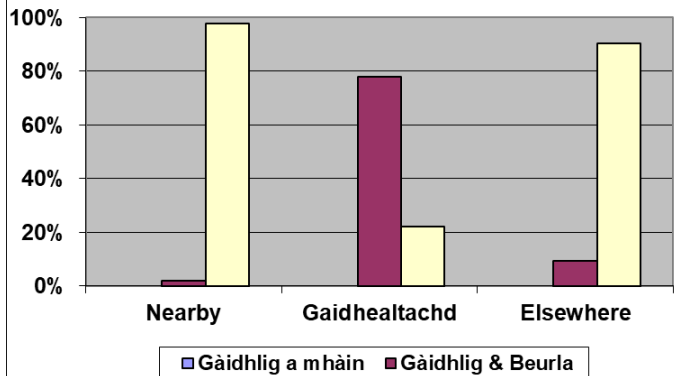
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken mainly by people originating from the *Gaidhealtachd*.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Dyke or in the adjacent parishes of Forres, Edinkillie (both Morayshire), or Auldearn (Nairnshire).

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. Official census figures reported 27 bilingual inhabitants out of a total population of 157 persons (17.2 %). The usually resident population, however, consisted of 25 *Gàidhlig*-speakers in a community of 140 persons (17.9 %).
2. There were no monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers recorded in 1891.
3. No recorded person with birthplace in the parish of *Dig* (Dyke) was found to be speaking *Gàidhlig*.