

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 120

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## Area: *Narainn (Nairn): Allt Eireann*

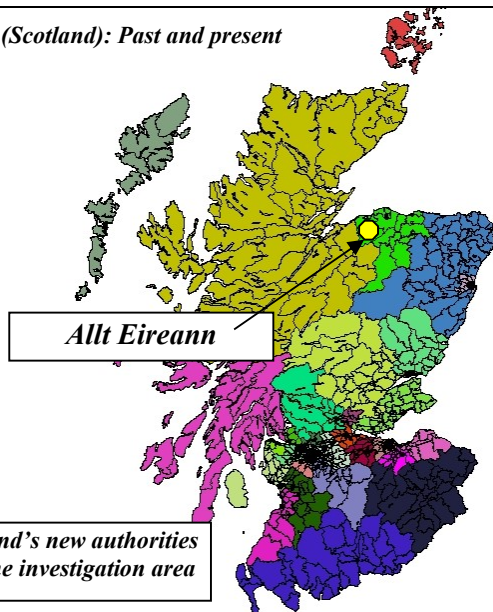
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Boath House, Auldearn, Hardmuir, Penick, Cothill, Easterton, Bogside, Boghead, Washingwells, Courage, Inshoch, Dromduan, Maviston, Lochloy, Druim Lodge, Kingsteps)

**Number of households: 153    Population present at census night: 683**

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 19.5 %**

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Nairnshire</i>	<i>Auldearn</i>	Auldearn	1 3	1 – 19 1 - 11

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



### State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

In this area adjacent to (but in 1891 no more part of) the *Gaidhealtachd* almost no locally born inhabitants spoke Gàidhlig at the census.

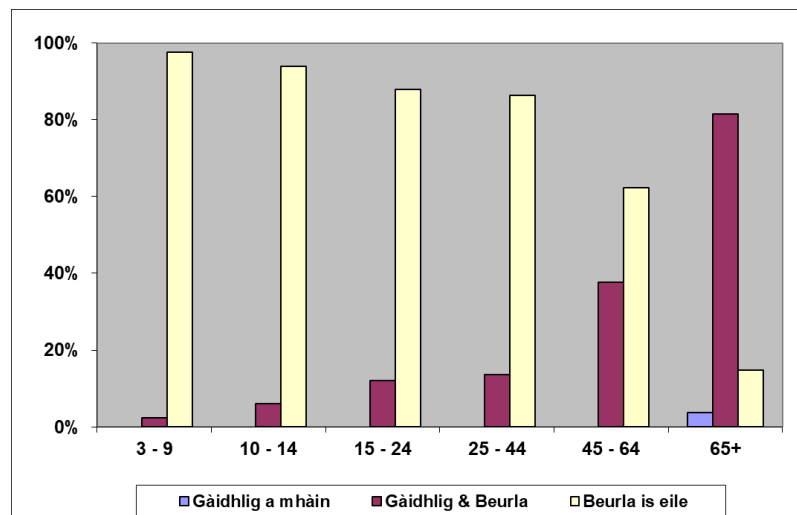
In addition, very few young people did speak the language. On the other hand, many older people could speak it. But most of them had learned Gàidhlig in their childhood in a Gàidhlig-speaking region further west.

In general, the Gàidhlig-speaking population was over-aged and certainly in decline.

### Area description:

The small village of *Allt Eireann* (Auldearn) is situated near the county boundary to *Moireabh* (Moray). It is surrounded by fertile land and as such acted as convenient marketplace for the local population.

Almost halfway between *Nàrainn* (Nairn) and *Farrais* (Forres), the village was also important stopping point for overland transport in those days. The village had some work opportunities available to servants or other lower-class jobs which were often filled with applicants from the (Gàidhlig-speaking) regions further west.



**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. <sup>3</sup>	Total <sup>4</sup>	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>19.5 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7.1 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6.5 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10.9 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20.7 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>32.5 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>68.3 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>20.6 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>18.4 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3.3 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>66</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9.5 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>104</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>82.2 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9.6 %</b>

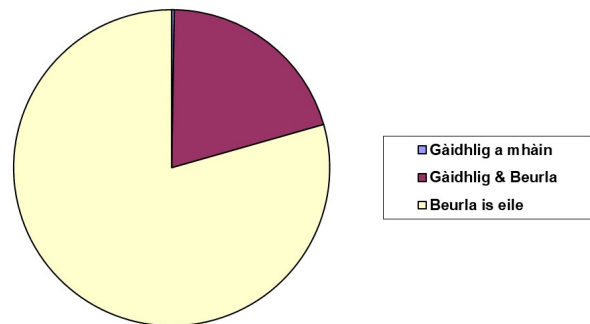
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Nairn and Ardcloch (both Nairnshire) as well as Dyke & Moy (Morayshire)

<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.

<sup>4</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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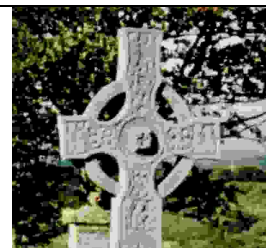
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Area: *Narainn (Nairn): Allt Eireann*

	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Narainn: Allt Eireann</i>	153	604	1	117	19.5 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Talla Bothanach</i> (Boath House)	9	51	0	14	27.5 %
<i>Allt Eireann</i> (Auldearn)	95	323	1	62	19.5 %
<i>Kingsteps &amp; Loch Laoigh</i> (Kingsteps & Lochloy)	49	230	0	41	17.8 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	10	50	0	29	58.0 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	9	32	1	12	40.6 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	18	110	0	26	23.6 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	46	234	0	2	0.9 %
Households with no children (0-14)	70	178	0	48	27.0 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	22	131	0	19	14.5 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	9	23	0	11	47.8 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	4	18	0	1	5.6 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	24	98	0	8	8.2 %
Living on private means	5	28	0	1	3.6 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	6	16	0	5	31.3 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	67	253	1	67	26.9 %
Remaining occupations	16	37	0	5	13.5 %

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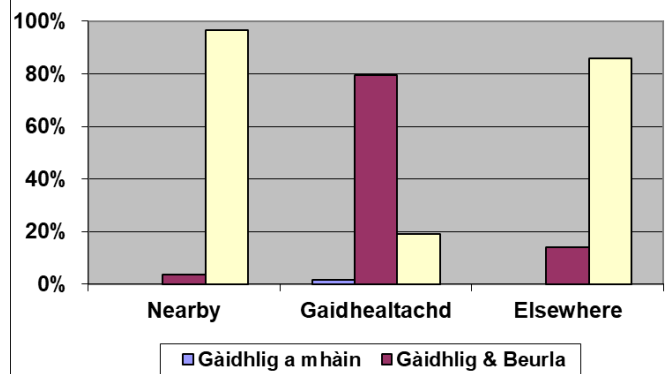
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was almost entirely spoken by people originating from the *Gaidhealtachd* or whose parents were descendants from “Highlanders”.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Auldearn or in the adjacent parishes of Nairn, Ardclach (both Nairnshire), or Dyke & Moy (Morayshire).

<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. Official census figures reported 122 bilingual inhabitants and 1 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speaker out of a total population of 683 persons (18.0%). The usually resident population of 604 inhabitants, however, consisted of 118 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (19.5%) including one inhabitant “with no English”.
2. Almost all enumerated speakers of *Gàidhlig* originated from the *Gaidhealtachd* (see also figure above).
3. The only monolingual *Gàidhlig* speaker was a 54-year-old worker from *Geàrrloch* (Gairloch) in *Taobh Siar Rois* (Wester Ross). She lived in a small, entirely *Gàidhlig* speaking household in the village.