

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 125

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**Area: Na Tròisichean (The Trossachs): Blàr a'Ghearraidh, Lannraig, Ceann Drochaid, Dùn Darach, Gleann Fhionnghlais, Gleann Bruaich, Taigh-aosda nan Tròisichean, Eadar, An Leitir, An t-Sròn, Port nan Eilean, Loch Caiteirein & Gleann a'Ghoill**

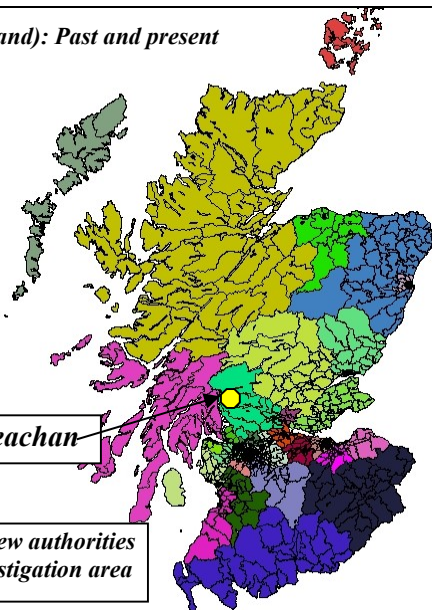
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Blairgarry, Lendrick, Bridge of Turk, Dundaroch, Glenfinglas, Glenbruaich, Manse of Trossachs, Trossachs Hotel, Brianachoil, Letter, Edra, Strone, Portnellan, School House Loch Katrine & Glengyle)

**Number of households: 41      Population present at census night: 267**

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 51.2 %**

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Perth	Callander	Callander	8	1 – 11

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



**Na Troiseachan**

*Scotland's new authorities and the investigation area*

## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

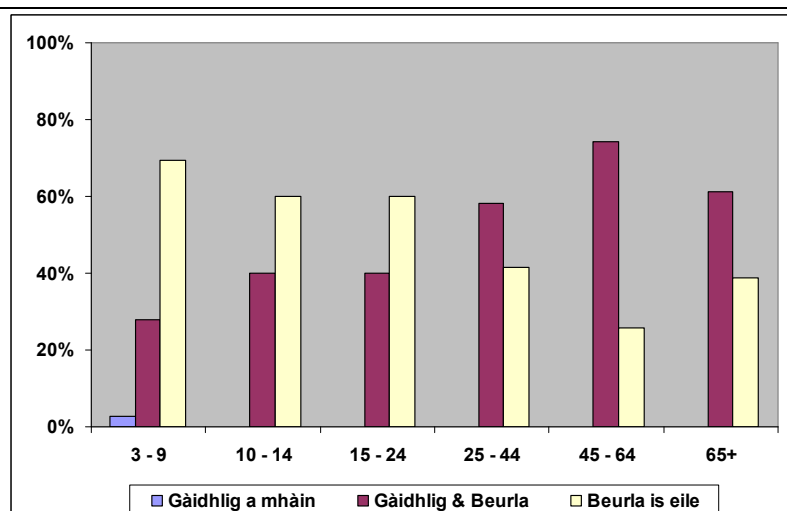
The area was much more Gàidhlig than the general proportion of speakers might suggest. The presence of largely English monolingual speakers around the Trossachs Hotel must be considered when assessing the strength of the language at the time. For example, Gàidhlig still was overwhelmingly spoken in Gleann Fhionnghlais (Glen Finglas) and it was widely used also in the village of Ceann Drochaid (Brig o' Turk).

Nonetheless already a slight ageing of the language community had taken place. Most old people spoke Gàidhlig whereas only a minority of younger folk did so, too.

## Area description:

This district is situated in the western part of the ancient county of *Siorrachd Pheairt* (Perthshire). The area occupies the country north of *Loch Àth Chrathaidh* (Loch Achray) and *Loch Caiteirein* (Loch Katrine). Already in 1891 this Highland district was romantically known as *Na Tròisichean* (The Trossachs) and Victorian tourism made its impact including the existence of a large hotel.

Apart from this most inhabitants were engaged in traditional occupations like shepherding, gamekeeping and farming.



**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>	267	15	0	35	217	1	110	51.8 %
<b>3-4</b>	12		0	1	11	1	2	27.3 %
<b>5-9</b>	27		0	2	25	0	8	32.0 %
<b>10-14</b>	25		0	5	20	0	8	40.0 %
<b>15-24</b>	50		0	10	40	0	16	40.0 %
<b>25-44</b>	80		0	8	72	0	42	58.3 %
<b>45-64</b>	37		0	6	31	0	23	74.2 %
<b>65+</b>	21		0	3	18	0	11	61.1 %
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	126	8	0	8	110	0	55	50.0 %
<b>Male</b>	141	7	0	27	107	1	55	52.3 %
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	77	12	0	1	64	1	35	56.3 %
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	56	0	0	1	55	0	29	52.7 %
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	49	0	0	2	47	0	38	80.9 %
<b>Other places</b>	85	3	0	31	51	0	8	15.7 %

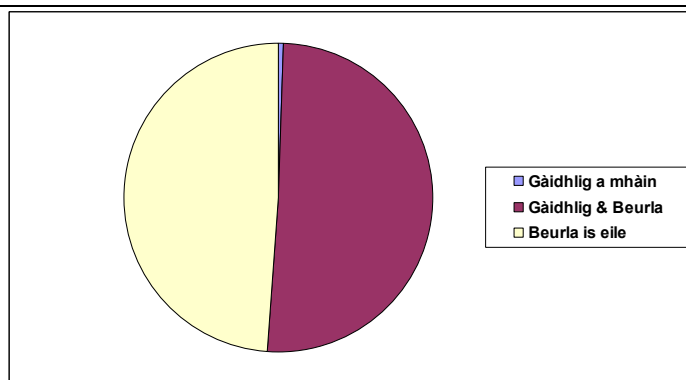
**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Balquhidder, Comrie, Crieff, Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith (all Perth) or Buchanan (Stirling).

<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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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Na Tròisichean</i>	41	217	1	110	51.2 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Blàr a'Ghearraidh &amp; Lannraig</i> (Blairgarry & Lendrick)	3	9	0	4	44.4 %
<i>Ceann Drochaid</i> (Brig o'Turk)	22	96	0	42	43.8 %
<i>Gleann Fhionnghlais</i> (Glen Finglas)	5	18	0	14	77.8 %
<i>Gleann Bruaich &amp; Taigh-aosda nan Tr.</i> (Glenbruaich & Trossachs Hotel)	3	46	0	15	32.6 %
<i>An Leitir &amp; Gleann a'Ghoill</i> (Letter & Glengyle)	8	48	1	35	75.0 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	9	59	1	40	69.5 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	4	16	0	13	81.3 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	8	37	0	11	29.7 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	3	36	0	10	27.8 %
Households with no children (0-14)	17	69	0	36	52.2 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	8	29	0	21	72.4 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	5	31	0	24	77.4 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	7	48	0	14	29.2 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	2	12	0	5	41.7 %
Living on private means	1	15	0	5	33.3 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	3	16	1	10	68.8 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	12	56	0	22	39.3 %
Remaining occupations	3	10	0	9	90.0 %

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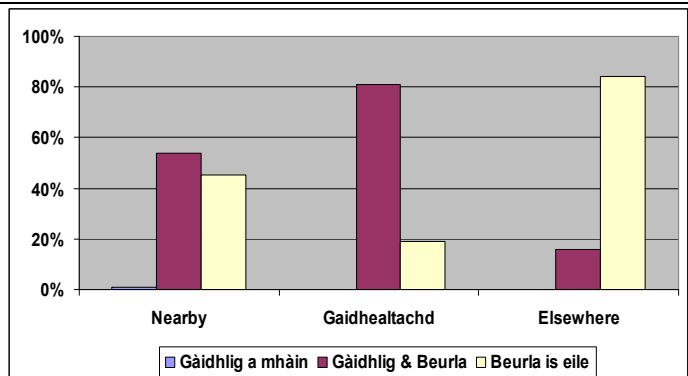
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

More than half of the locally born population spoke Gàidhlig. People with birthplaces outside the *Gaidhealtachd* were of course far less likely to use the traditional language.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Callander or in the adjacent parishes of Balquhidder, Comrie, Crieff, Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith (all Perth) or Buchanan (Stirling).

<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. Just one person did not speak English but Gàidhlig only: A three year old boy at the farm of *Eadar* (Edra) on the northern shores of *Loch Caitearan* (Loch Katrine).
2. Official census figures reported 113 bilingual inhabitants and one monolingual Gàidhlig-speaker out of a total population of 267 persons (42.7 %). The usually resident population, however, consisted of 111 Gàidhlig-speakers (51.2 %) including one child “with no Gaelic”.