

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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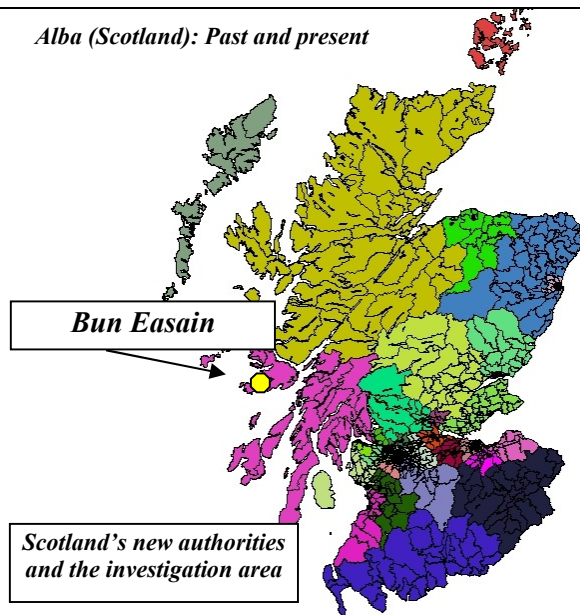
Area: *Muile (Mull): Bun Easain, An Suidhe, Beinn an Dòbhrain, Tìr a'Ghoill & Àird Fineig*
 (Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Linguaguish, Bunessan, Suic, Bendoran, Tiraghoil, Ardfenaig)

Number of households: 53 Population present at census night: 199

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 96.6 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Argyll	Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon	Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon	5 6	12 1 – 10

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

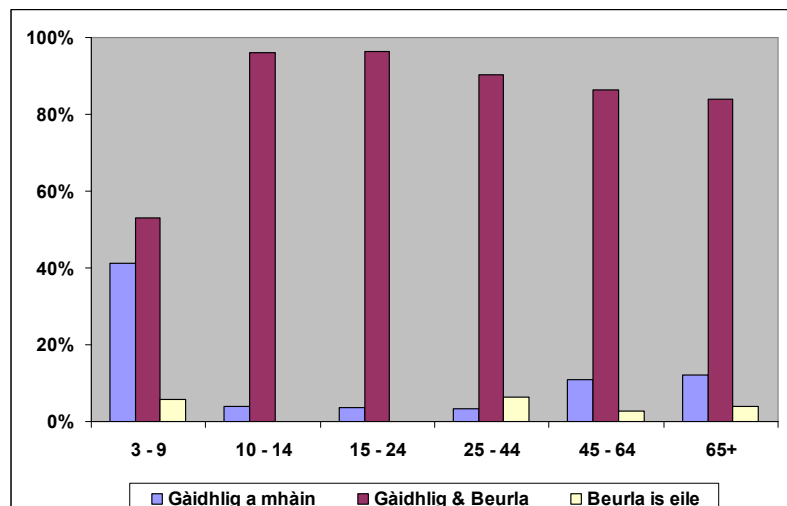
Almost everybody in the district spoke Gàidhlig. Most of the residents did also speak English – to what extent, however, was not registered on the census forms. The six English monolinguals found were all born far away and five of these persons were reported from the village *Bun Easain* (Bunessan).

Some of the local people did not speak English. Those returns were mainly confined to children less than 10 years of age.

Area description:

The district described is situated on the peninsula *An Ros Muileach* (Ross of Mull) which forms the south-western part of the Hebridean island of *Muile* (Mull). The communities involved are made up of the tiny hamlet of *Bun Easain* (Bunessan) and a few nearby crofting settlements.

Bun Easain acted as administrative and trading centre of this part of *Muile*, and all sorts of craft people and officials were present. Basic occupations in the other settlements were farm related work in one way or another with the odd fisherman around.



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

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Area: *Muile (Mull): Bun Easain, An Suidhe, Beinn an Dòbhrain, Tìr a'Ghoill & Àird Fineig*

	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. ³	Total ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	199	10	0	10	179	24	149	96.6 %
3-4	11		0	0	11	9	2	100 %
5-9	23		0	0	23	5	16	91.3 %
10-14	26		0	1	25	1	24	100 %
15-24	32		0	5	27	1	27	100 %
25-44	33		0	2	31	1	28	93.5 %
45-64	39		0	2	37	4	32	97.3 %
65+	26		0	0	25	3	21	96.0 %
Gender								
Female	107	5	0	4	98	13	81	96.9 %
Male	92	5	0	6	81	11	69	97.5 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	115	8	0	1	106	17	89	100 %
In neighbouring parish¹	13	0	0	1	12	1	11	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	48	0	0	3	45	6	38	97.8 %
Other places	23	2	0	5	16	0	11	68.8 %

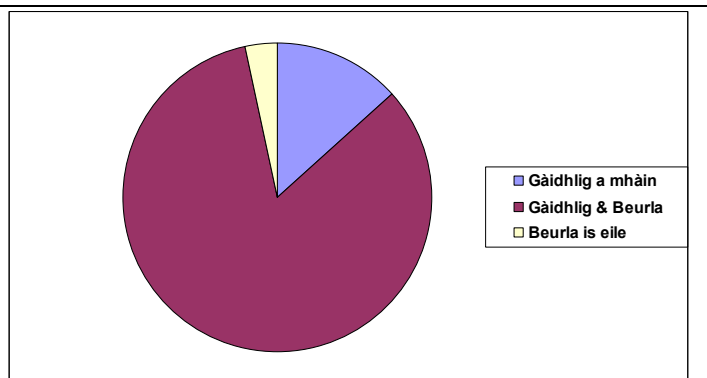
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Torosay and Kilninian & Kilmore (both Argyll).

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.

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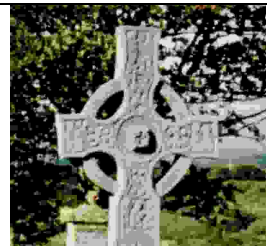
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Area: *Muile (Mull): Bun Easain, An Suidhe, Beinn an Dòbhrain, Tìr a'Ghoill & Àird Fìneig*

	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	<i>Gàidhlig</i>	<i>Gàidhlig</i> & English	<i>Gàidhlig</i> speakers (%)
<i>Bun Easain & Àird Fìneig</i>	53	179	24	150	96.6 %
Individual communities					
<i>Bun Easain</i> (Bunessan)	33	104	5	95	95.2 %
<i>An t-Suidhe & Beinn an Dòbhrain</i> (Suie & Bendoran)	4	21	3	18	100 %
<i>Tìr a'Ghoill</i> (Tiragoil)	8	21	7	14	100 %
<i>Àird Fìneig</i> (Ardfenaig)	8	33	9	23	97.0 %
Language of parents					
Both parents <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	16	85	13	72	100 %
Single parent <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	8	30	5	25	100 %
One parent <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	2	9	0	6	66.7 %
No <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	27	55	6	47	94.5 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	5	18	3	15	100 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	8	28	6	22	100 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	4	16	0	17	100 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	12	56	1	51	92.9 %
Living on private means	2	3	0	3	100 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	2	8	6	2	100 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	20	50	8	40	96.0 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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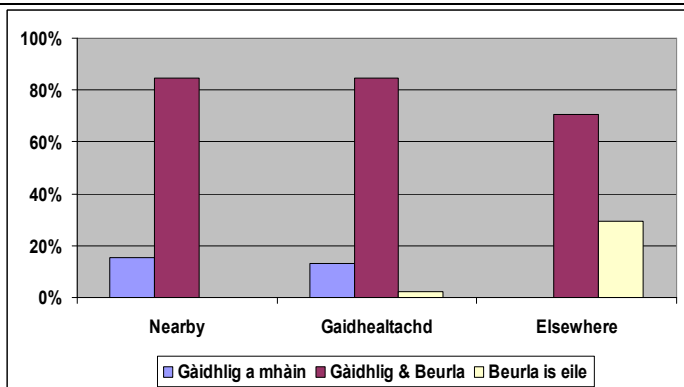
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

All six persons “with no Gàidhlig” originated from further away. Approximately one sixth of all residents born in the *Gaidhealtachd* did not speak English.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon or in the adjacent parishes of Torosay or Kilninian & Kilmore (all Argyll).

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. Six members of the usually resident population were reported as not speaking *Gàidhlig*. A baker from Kilmarnock and two of his youngest daughters were part of this small group. A licensed hawker’s widow from Bristol, a general merchant’s clerk from Glasgow and a retired cowherd from Islay spoke also not the local language.
2. In original census report terms, the enumeration district in total had a population of 199 persons of all ages. 156 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 28 persons were reported as monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers. These figures led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 92.5 %. A comparison with the more realistic statistics of this factsheet reveals that this percentage was a slight under-estimate of 4.1 % mainly caused by the inclusion of under-three olds and visitors in the official population base.