

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: *Taobh Siar Rois (Wester Ross): Camas Teile & A'Chomraich (Applecross)*

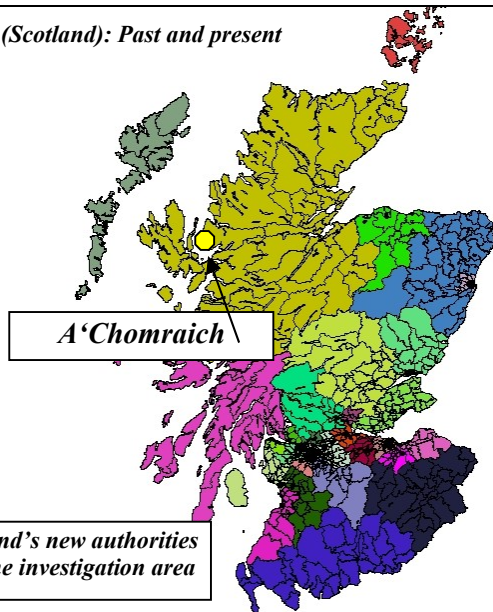
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Camusteel, Torgarve, Millton, Millton Gardens, Borraddle, Keppoch, Bigton, Kirkton, Applecross House)

Number of households: 69 Population present at census night: 220

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 94.1 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Applecross	Applecross	3	1 - 11

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

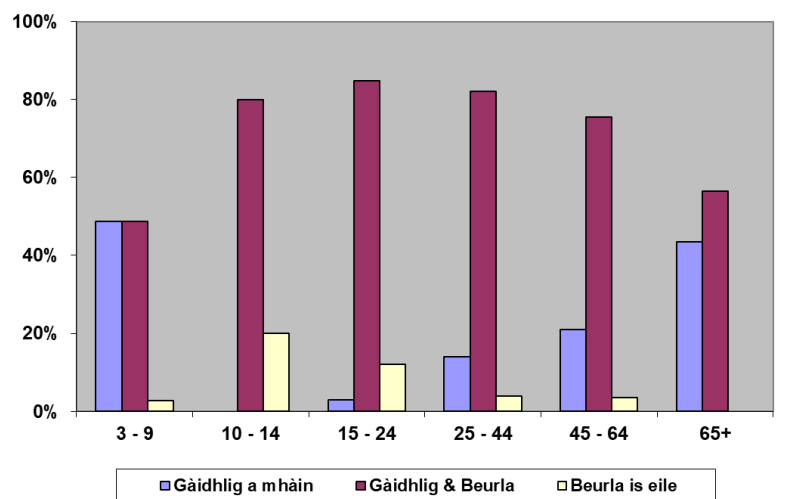
The state of the Gàidhlig language was very strong in every respect. Children under school age were monolingual Gàidhlig speakers, and many of the older generations still not used English.

Another world apart were the grounds of *Talla na Comraiche* (Applecross House) where gardeners and gamekeepers (and their families) ignored the local tongue.

Area description:

The settlement of *A'Chomraich* (Applecross) and its neighbouring crofting settlements are situated on a remote part of the Scottish west coast.

In 1891 its main connection with the rest of the country was by boat. The only land connection was by the steep *Bealach na Bà* (Pass of the cattle) – aptly named after its main purpose. The pass was often blocked by snow in winter. It can be said that this part of the world was practically an “island” of its own.



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

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Area: *Taobh Siar Rois (Wester Ross): Camas Teile & A'Chomraich (Applecross)*

	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. ³	Total ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	253	14	0	19	220	48	159	94.1 %
3-4	9	0	0	0	9	9	0	100.0 %
5-9	31	0	0	3	28	9	18	96.4 %
10-14	23	0	0	3	20	0	16	80.0 %
15-24	36	0	0	3	33	1	28	87.9 %
25-44	57	0	0	7	50	7	41	96.0 %
45-64	59	0	0	2	57	12	43	96.5 %
65+	24	0	0	1	23	10	13	100.0 %
Gender								
Female	142	5	0	9	128	31	89	93.8 %
Male	111	9	0	10	92	17	70	94.6 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	184	13	0	5	166	42	116	95.2 %
In neighbouring parish¹	10	0	0	1	9	1	8	100.0 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	47	1	0	9	37	5	32	100.0 %
Other places	12	0	0	4	8	0	3	37.5 %

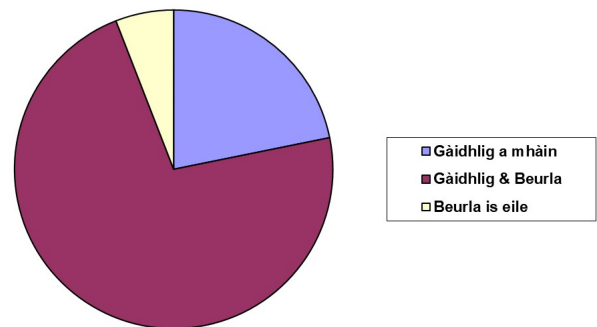
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Lochcarron or Gairloch.

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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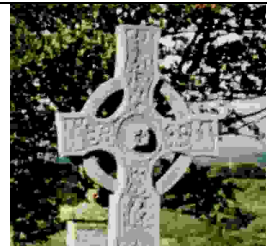
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Area: *Taobh Siar Rois (Wester Ross): Camas Teile & A'Chomraich (Applecross)*

	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Camas Teile & A'Chomraich</i>	69	220	48	159	94.1 %
Individual communities					
<i>Camas Teile & Tòrr Garbh</i> (Camusteel & Torgarve)	22	81	33	47	98.8 %
<i>Baile a'Mhuillinn</i> (Milton)	36	93	9	84	100.0 %
<i>Talla na Comraich & Baile na Cille</i> (Applecross House & Kirkton)	11	46	6	28	73.9 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	13	76	22	53	98.7 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	10	37	10	27	100.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	3	11	3	4	63.6 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	1	6	0	0	0.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	42	90	13	75	97.8 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	19	75	24	50	98.7 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	4	18	2	6	44.4 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	2	7	0	5	71.4 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	8	28	1	27	100.0 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	35	92	21	71	100.0 %
Remaining occupations	1	0	0	0	-

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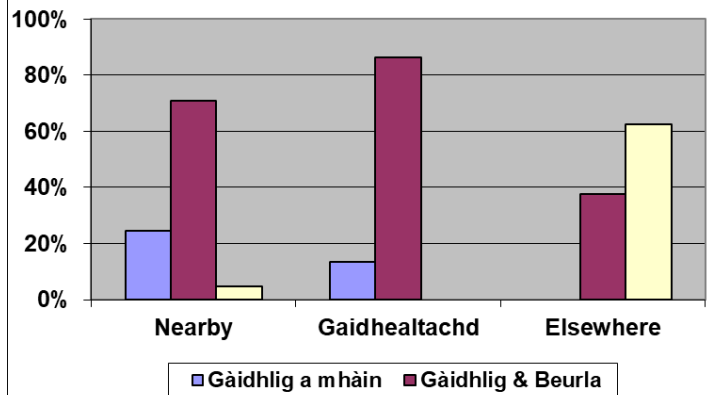
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was almost universally spoken by the local residents. Just many of those related to the upkeep of *Talla na Comraich* (Applecross House) and its gardens came from further afield.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Applecross or in the adjacent parishes of Gairloch or Lochcarron

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 167 bilingual inhabitants and 60 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 253 persons (89.7 %). The usually resident population of 220 persons, however, consisted of 207 Gàidhlig-speakers (94.1%) including 48 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. The few “English only” census records were almost exclusively provided by a gamekeeper’s family (4 persons), the gardener’s family (6 persons), and both housemaster and housemaid of *Talla na Comraiche* (Applecross House).