

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 136

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Area: *Taobh Siar Rois (Wester Ross): An Lòn Bàn & Àiridh nan Cruineachd*

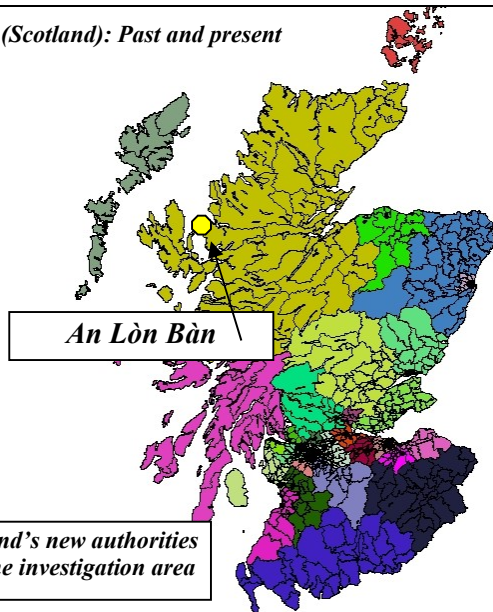
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Sand, Sallacher, Lonbain, Callakille, Cuaig, Fearnmore, Fearnbeg, Arinacrinachd)

Number of households: **82** Population present at census night: **347**

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: **98.1 %**

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Applecross	Applecross	4	1 – 6
			5	1 - 14

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

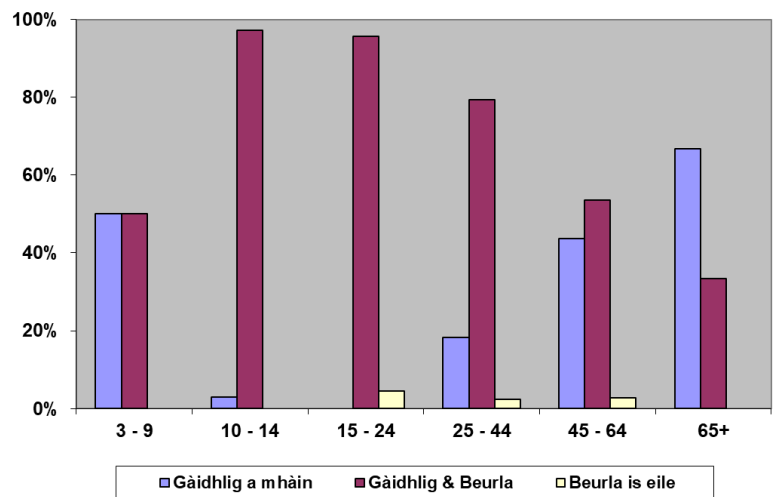
The language was universally used in all crofting hamlets north of A'Chomraich (Applecross) and its stately home.

Almost a third of all speakers were monolingual – mostly very young children and older people. In between these age groups the school policy of “English only” instruction had its effects.

## Area description:

This region of interest lies on a remote peninsula on the Scottish west coast. Here the small crofting hamlets north of A'Chomraich (Applecross) were clinging on a narrow coastal strip, which had been their ancestor's refuge after the infamous Highland clearances.

Most (almost sole) occupation was the traditional self-reliant crofting system with small allotments and common grazing of sheep and cattle.



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>347</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>98.1 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>95.6 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>97.6 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>97.2 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>97.0 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>99.3 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>98.4 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>50.0 %</b>

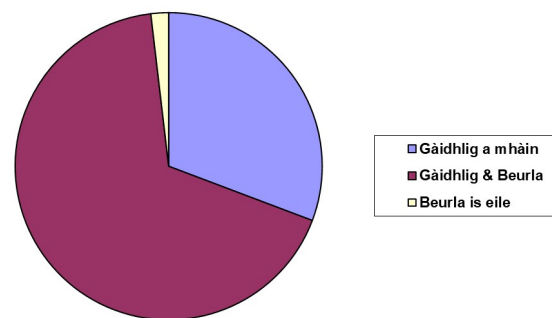
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Lochcarron or Gairloch.

<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 & 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](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>An Lòn Bàn &amp; Àiridh nan Cruineachd</i>	<b>82</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>98.1 %</b>
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Sannda &amp; Salachar</i> (Sand & Sallachar)	2	13	3	10	100.0 %
<i>An Lòn Bàn</i> (Lonbain)	14	58	29	29	100.0 %
<i>Cal na Cille</i> (Callakille)	10	45	10	34	97.8 %
<i>Cùthaig</i> (Cuaig)	14	50	14	36	100.0 %
<i>Feàrna Mòr</i> (Fernmore)	18	63	13	46	93.7 %
<i>Feàrna Beag</i> (Fairnbeg)	10	37	8	29	100.0 %
<i>Àiridh nan Cruineachd</i> (Arinacrinachd)	14	56	22	33	98.2 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
<b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>	27	149	41	108	100.0 %
<b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	6	27	6	21	100.0 %
<b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	0	0	0	0	-
<b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>	49	146	52	88	95.9 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
<b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>	65	262	83	175	98.5 %
<b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>	3	12	1	10	91.7 %
<b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>	2	12	1	11	100.0 %
<b>Living on private means</b>	2	3	3	0	100.0 %
<b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>	1	4	2	2	100.0 %
<b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>	9	29	9	19	96.6 %
<b>Remaining occupations</b>	0	0	0	0	-

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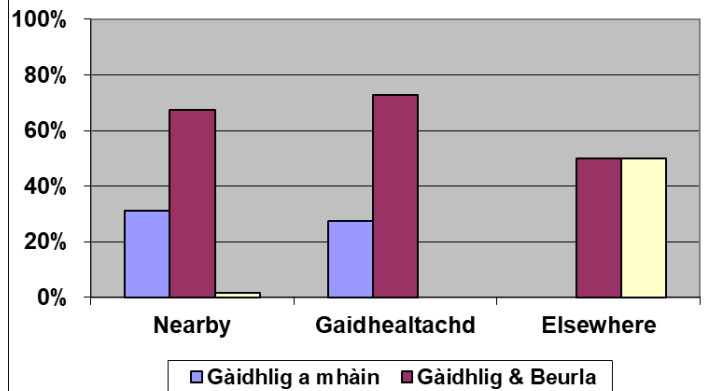
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language universally spoken with local background and originating from other parts of the *Gaidhealtachd*.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Applecross or in the adjacent parishes of Lochcarron or Gairloch.

<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 218 bilingual inhabitants and 111 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 347 persons (94.8 %). The usually resident population of 322, however, consisted of 316 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (98.1 %) including 99 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. One of the six persons with “English only” recordings did live at *Cal na Cille* (Callakille) and was an 18-years-old crofter’s daughter. At the bottom of the enumeration page this entry was maybe accidentally left blank. A further three entries with “no Gaelic” were provided by a crofter’s family with an “imbecile” sister and two further relatives in *Feàrna Mòr* (Fernmore). Added to the total of English monoglots were a gamekeeper’s wife in the same crofting hamlet and a joiner from far away Buckie in Banffshire who happened to live in the schoolhouse of *Àiridh nan Cruineachd* (Arinacrinachd).