

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: *Taobh Siar Rois (Wester Ross): Achadh na Tràghad, Ceann Loch Daimh, Treabhar nam Preas, Àird Darach & Cìseorn*

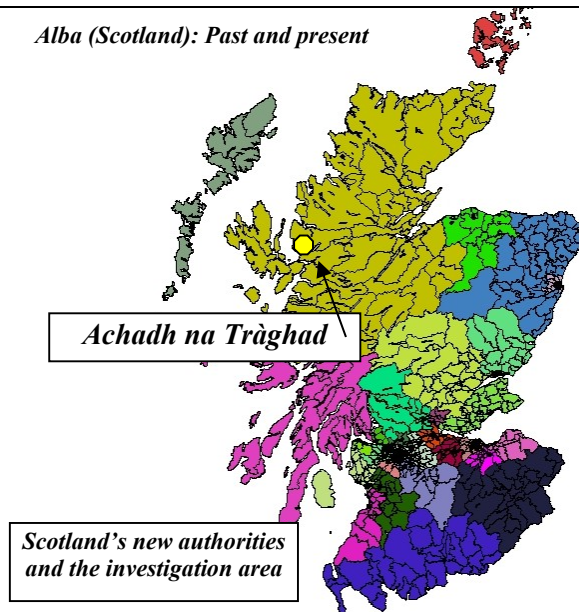
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Kinlochdamph, Rassal, Tornapress, Achintraid, Ardoch, Ardarroch, Seafield, Russel)

Number of households: 55 **Population present at census night:** 257

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 93.6 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Applecross	Shieldaig	6	1 – 15

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

The language was universally used in all crofting hamlets south of A'Chomraich (Applecross).

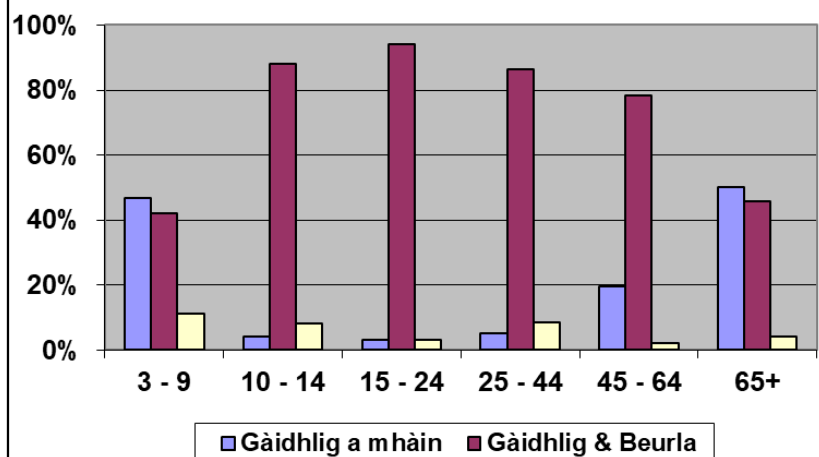
Almost a third of all speakers were monolingual – mostly very young children and older people. In between these age groups the school policy of “English only” instruction had its effects.

The English-speaking minority comprised in the main of incomers brought in by the landlords of the day – gamekeepers, shepherds, and the like.

Area description:

This region of interest lies on a remote peninsula on the Scottish west coast. Here the small crofting hamlets south 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. ³	Total ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	257	20	1	3	233	47	171	93.6 %
3-4	15	0	0	0	15	9	4	86.7 %
5-9	30	0	0	0	30	12	15	90.0 %
10-14	25	0	0	0	25	1	22	92.0 %
15-24	34	0	0	0	34	1	32	97.1 %
25-44	60	0	1	0	59	3	51	91.5 %
45-64	46	0	0	0	46	9	36	97.8 %
65+	27	0	0	3	24	12	11	95.8 %
Gender								
Female	122	7	0	1	114	31	77	94.7 %
Male	135	13	1	2	119	16	94	92.4 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	189	19	1	2	167	44	120	98.2 %
In neighbouring parish¹	15	0	0	0	15	0	15	100.0 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	39	0	0	1	38	2	33	92.1 %
Other places	14	1	0	0	13	1	3	30.8 %

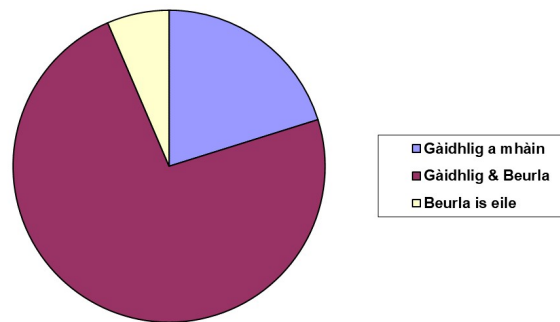
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Lochcarron or Gairloch (both Ross & Cromarty).

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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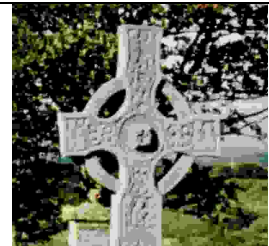
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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Achadh na Tràghad & Àird Darach</i>	55	233	47	171	93.6 %
Individual communities					
<i>Ceann Loch Daimh & Treabhar nam Press</i> (Kinlochdamp & Tornapress)	9	38	5	32	97.4 %
<i>Achadh na Tràghad</i> (Achintraid)	29	117	26	90	99.1 %
<i>Àird Darach</i> (Ardarroch)	11	54	12	35	87.0 %
<i>Ròsail & Ciseorn</i> (Russel & Kishorn)	6	24	4	14	75.0 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	18	88	17	70	98.9 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	8	36	11	25	100.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	4	26	0	16	61.5 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	26	83	19	60	95.2 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	35	150	34	114	98.7 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	3	13	0	13	100.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	4	0	1	25.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	3	15	2	13	100.0 %
Living on private means	1	7	0	4	57.1 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	2	11	0	10	90.9 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	2	11	0	6	54.5 %
Remaining occupations	8	22	11	10	95.5 %

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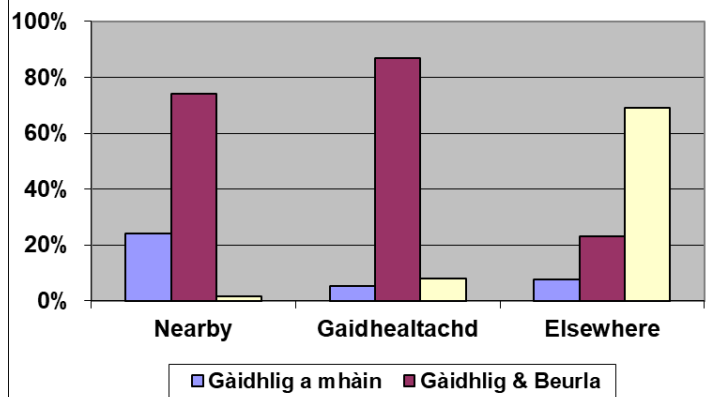
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken almost universally by those born locally or in the remaining *Gaidhealtachd*.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Applecross or in the adjacent parishes of Lochcarron or Gairloch (both Ross & Cromarty).

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 showed 172 bilingual inhabitants and 55 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers in a total population of 257 persons (88.3 %). The usually resident population of 233 persons, however, comprised 218 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (93.6 %) including 47 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. The majority of the 15 entries with “no Gaelic” were rather illustrious. Three persons residing in Ardoch House (household head, his wife and their gardener). In *Àird Darach* (Ardarroch) lived a further three English monoglots at the schoolteacher’s house, and five entrants were associated with a cattleman and his family from lowland Banffshire.