

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 145

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Area: Coigeach (Coigach): Bad an Sgàlaidh, Cùl na Creige, Achadh Dhubhaird, Camas nan Càrnan, Achadh an Inbhir & Achadh a'Bhràighe

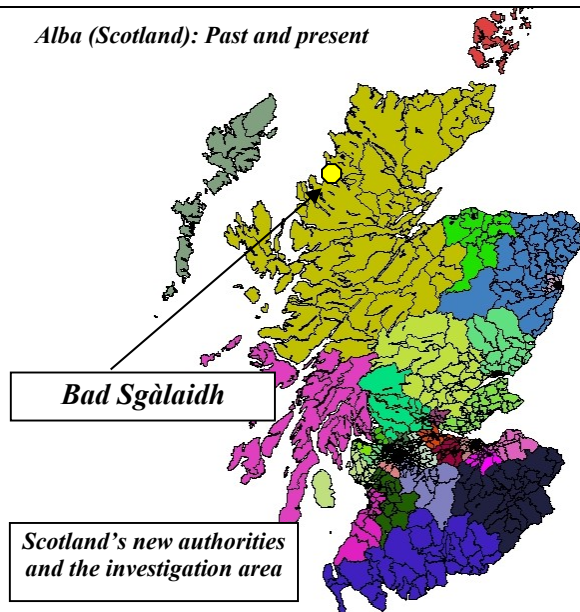
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Badinscallie, Achduart, Camusnacarrin, Achninver, Achbrae)

Number of households: 46 Population present at census night: 207

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 99.0 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Lochbroom	Coigach	1	1 – 11

Alba (Scotland): Past and present

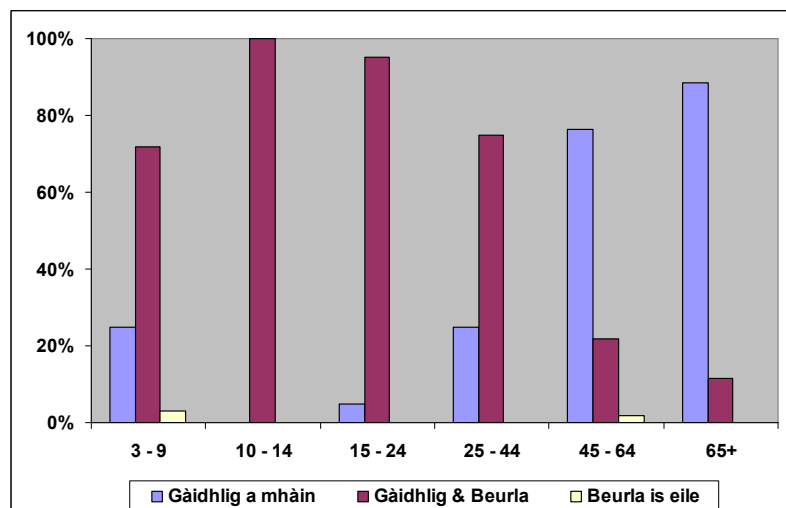


State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

Gàidhlig was spoken by almost everybody in this district. A substantial part of the population still did not speak English. These monolingual persons were most common in older age groups and among women generally. The language was equally strong in every local community of this area.

Area description:

The small coastal hamlets between Cùl na Creige (Culnacraig) and Bad an Sgàlaidh (Badinscallie) were located on the remote peninsula of Coigeach (Coigach) in the north-western part of mainland Ros is Cromba (Ross & Cromarty). Crofting and fishing were the main occupations of the inhabitants.



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	207	8	0	6	193	83	108	99.0 %
3-4	10	0	0	0	10	6	4	100 %
5-9	23	0	0	1	22	2	19	95.5 %
10-14	23	0	0	0	23	0	23	100 %
15-24	23	0	0	2	21	1	20	100 %
25-44	37	0	0	1	36	9	27	100 %
45-64	57	0	0	2	55	42	12	98.2 %
65+	26	0	0	0	26	23	3	100 %
Gender								
Female	110	5	0	4	101	53	47	99.0 %
Male	97	3	0	2	92	30	61	98.9 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	202	8	0	6	188	83	103	98.9 %
In neighbouring parish¹	4	0	0	0	4	0	4	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Other places	1	0	0	9	1	0	1	100 %

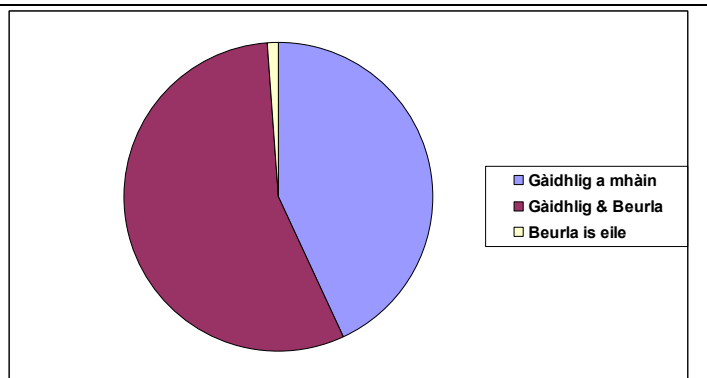
Notes:

¹Parishes of Assynt (Sutherland), Gairloch, Contin and Kincardine (all Ross & Cromarty).

²Other 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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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Bad Sgàlaidh & Cùl na Creige</i>	46	193	83	108	99.0 %
Individual communities					
<i>Cùl na Creige</i> (Culnacraig)	5	20	8	12	100 %
<i>Achadh Dhubhaird</i> (Achduart)	6	33	8	24	97.0 %
<i>Camas nan Càrnan</i> (Camuscarinan)	2	10	3	7	100 %
<i>Achadh an Inbhir</i> (Achninver)	4	16	10	6	100 %
<i>Achadh a'Bhràighe</i> (Achvraie)	4	20	7	13	100 %
<i>Bad an Sgàlaidh</i> (Badinscally)	25	94	47	46	98.9 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	15	84	27	56	98.8 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	9	41	14	27	100 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	22	68	42	25	98.5 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	36	165	72	91	98.8 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	1	5	0	5	100 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	2	0	2	100 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	3	12	4	8	100 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	5	9	7	2	100 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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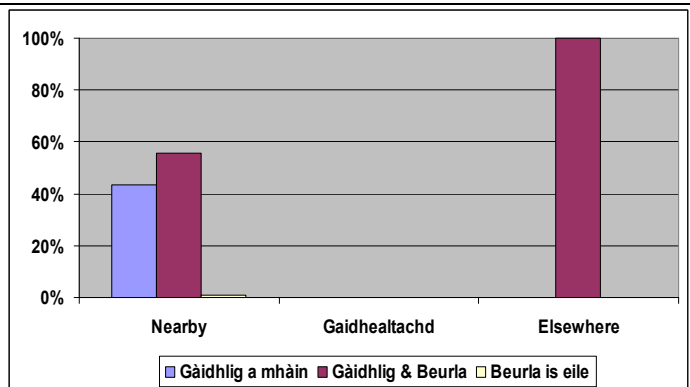
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

People were either born in the immediate neighbourhood or outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. All those “aliens”, however, were bilingual. Almost 50% of locally born persons were *Gàidhlig* monolingual speakers.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Lochbroom or in the adjacent parishes of Assynt (Sutherland), Gairloch, Contin and Kincardine (all 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. Among the 193 residents just two persons did not have a “G&E” or “G” marked on their registration sheets. However, even these returns can only be described as doubtful. A 57 old crofter with “no Gaelic” was living side by side with his twin brother who was counted as *Gàidhlig* only speaker. The other interesting return came from a nine-year-old girl whose parents were also *Gàidhlig* monolinguals!
2. In original census report terms, the enumeration district in total had a population of 207 persons of all ages. 108 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 86 persons were reported as monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers. These figures led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 93.7 %. A comparison with the more realistic statistics of this factsheet reveals that this percentage was a slight under-estimate of 5.3 % mainly caused by the inclusion of under-three olds and visitors in the official population base.