

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 147

Page 1 of 4

**Area:** *Bràghad Albainn (Breadalbane): Am Fasadh, Bràigh Fasaidh, Coinneachan, Drochaid Choinneachain, Both Chailleann, Druim na Coille*

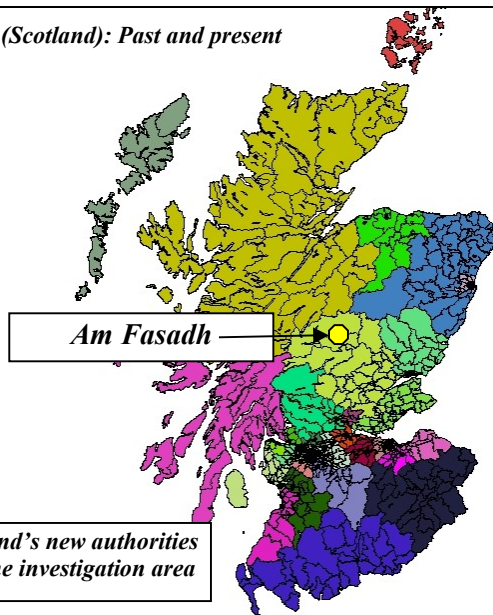
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Ruichastit, Netherton, Drumnakyle, Duntanloch, Lick Cottage, Foss Lodge, Braes of Foss, Kynachan, Tummel Bridge, Dalcroy, Bohally)

**Number of households:** 44      **Population present at census night:** 210

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 84.0 %

| County     | Civil parish | Registration district | Enumeration district number | Census form pages |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Perthshire | Dull         | Foss                  | 1                           | 1 - 5             |
|            |              |                       | 2                           | 1 - 6             |

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



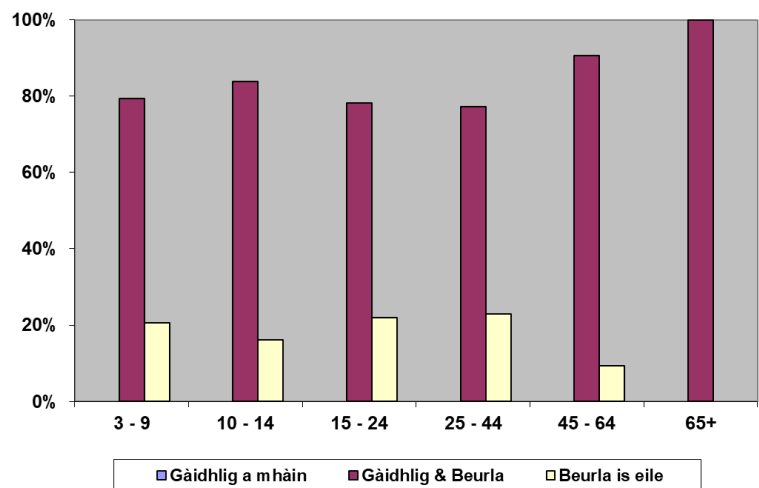
## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

This area is a prime example of language coexistence of two socially separated communities: On the one hand, there were the locally born and bred Gàidhlig speakers in their lower-class traditional community. On the other hand, landlords, clergy, schoolteachers, postmasters, and the like used English exclusively as their means of communication. This was also reflected in the language use of young children: Locals spoke overwhelmingly Gàidhlig, whereas the descendants of upper-class folks did not know the language of their neighbours. However, monolingual speakers of Gàidhlig were not present anymore in 1891.

## Area description:

This enumeration district is part of the region of *Bràghad Albainn* (Breadalbane) in northwestern Perthshire. The dwellings in this more mountainous country were scattered on the western shores of *Loch Teimhil* (Loch Tummel).

General occupations of many inhabitants at the time were related to the Foss Estate like gamekeeping, forestry, and some hill farming.



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

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 147

Page 2 of 4

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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>210</b>            | <b>11</b> | <b>0</b>    | <b>5</b>                   | <b>194</b>                       | <b>0</b> | <b>163</b>         | <b>84.0 %</b>         |
| <b>3-4</b>                                 | <b>8</b>              | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>8</b>                         | <b>0</b> | <b>6</b>           | <b>75.0 %</b>         |
| <b>5-9</b>                                 | <b>26</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>26</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>21</b>          | <b>80.8 %</b>         |
| <b>10-14</b>                               | <b>31</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>31</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>26</b>          | <b>83.9 %</b>         |
| <b>15-24</b>                               | <b>33</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>1</b>                   | <b>32</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>25</b>          | <b>78.1 %</b>         |
| <b>25-44</b>                               | <b>38</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>3</b>                   | <b>35</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>27</b>          | <b>77.1 %</b>         |
| <b>45-64</b>                               | <b>44</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>1</b>                   | <b>43</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>39</b>          | <b>90.7 %</b>         |
| <b>65+</b>                                 | <b>19</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>19</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>19</b>          | <b>100.0 %</b>        |
| <b>Gender</b>                              |                       |           |             |                            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <b>Female</b>                              | <b>102</b>            | <b>6</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>1</b>                   | <b>95</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>80</b>          | <b>84.2 %</b>         |
| <b>Male</b>                                | <b>108</b>            | <b>5</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>4</b>                   | <b>99</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>83</b>          | <b>83.8 %</b>         |
| <b>Place of birth</b>                      |                       |           |             |                            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <b>Born in parish</b>                      | <b>88</b>             | <b>11</b> | <b>0</b>    | <b>1</b>                   | <b>76</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>66</b>          | <b>86.8 %</b>         |
| <b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>  | <b>65</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>1</b>                   | <b>64</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>64</b>          | <b>100.0 %</b>        |
| <b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b> | <b>32</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>2</b>                   | <b>30</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>28</b>          | <b>93.3 %</b>         |
| <b>Other places</b>                        | <b>25</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>1</b>                   | <b>24</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>5</b>           | <b>20.8 %</b>         |

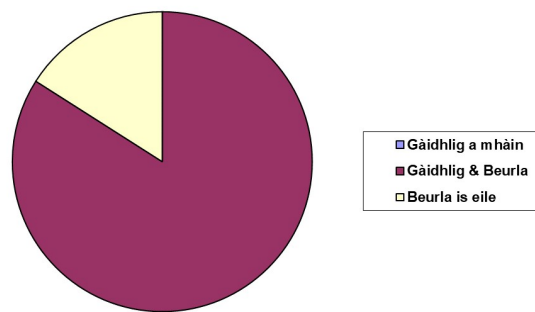
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Blair Atholl, Fortingall, Kenmore, Logierait, Moulin and Weem (all Perthshire).

<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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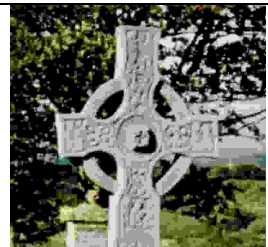
No. 147

Page 3 of 4

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|  | Households | Usually resident population (3+) |          |                    |                       |
|--|------------|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
|  |            | Total                            | Gàidhlig | Gàidhlig & English | Gàidhlig speakers (%) |
| <b><i>Bràghad Albainn : Am Fasadh</i></b>  | <b>44</b>  | <b>194</b>                       | <b>0</b> | <b>163</b>         | <b>84.0 %</b>         |
| <b>Individual communities</b>  |            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <b><i>Druim na Coille &amp; Bràigh Fasaidh</i></b><br>(Drumnakyle & Braes of Foss) | <b>21</b>  | <b>91</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>69</b>          | <b>75.8 %</b>         |
| <b><i>Coinneachan &amp; Both Chailleann</i></b><br>(Kynachan & Bohally)            | <b>23</b>  | <b>103</b>                       | <b>0</b> | <b>94</b>          | <b>91.3 %</b>         |
|  |            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
|  |            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
|  |            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
|  |            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
|  |            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
|  |            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
|  |            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <b>Language of parents</b>   |            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>  | <b>10</b>  | <b>64</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>56</b>          | <b>87.5 %</b>         |
| <b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>   | <b>4</b>   | <b>12</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>12</b>          | <b>100.0 %</b>        |
| <b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>  | <b>4</b>   | <b>39</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>26</b>          | <b>66.7 %</b>         |
| <b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>   | <b>2</b>   | <b>5</b>                         | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b>           | <b>20.0 %</b>         |
| <b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>  | <b>24</b>  | <b>74</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>68</b>          | <b>91.9 %</b>         |
|  |            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <b>Occupation of head of household</b>   |            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>  | <b>15</b>  | <b>96</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>78</b>          | <b>81.3 %</b>         |
| <b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>   | <b>8</b>   | <b>37</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>35</b>          | <b>94.6 %</b>         |
| <b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>   | <b>2</b>   | <b>4</b>                         | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b>           | <b>50.0 %</b>         |
| <b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>  | <b>5</b>   | <b>26</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>18</b>          | <b>69.2 %</b>         |
| <b>Living on private means</b>   | <b>3</b>   | <b>6</b>                         | <b>0</b> | <b>6</b>           | <b>100.0 %</b>        |
| <b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>   | <b>3</b>   | <b>7</b>                         | <b>0</b> | <b>7</b>           | <b>100.0 %</b>        |
| <b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>   | <b>8</b>   | <b>18</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>17</b>          | <b>94.4 %</b>         |
| <b>Remaining occupations</b>   | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>                         | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>           | <b>-</b>              |

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No. 147

Page 4 of 4

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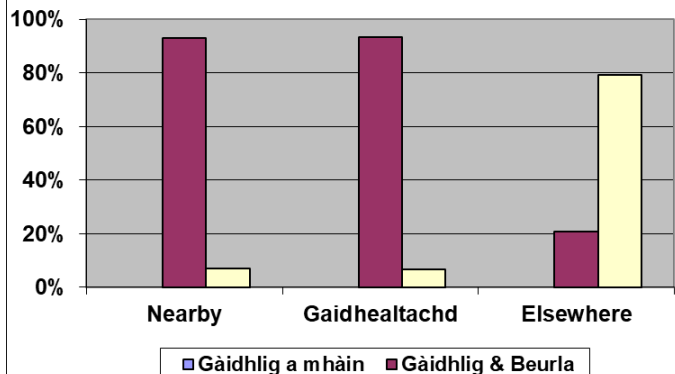
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken almost exclusively by the local population. The exceptions were mostly incomers like schoolteachers, gamekeepers, and the odd farmer family from Ayrshire.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in the parish of Dull or in the adjacent parishes of Blair Atholl, Fortingall Kenmore, Logierait, Moulin or Weem (all Perthshire)

<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 168 bilingual inhabitants out of a total population of 210 persons (80.0 %). The usually resident population, however, consisted of 163 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (84.0 %) out of a population of 194 souls.
2. No monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers were enumerated in this district in 1891.
3. The 31 persons “with no Gaelic” typically came from households of “incomers”. Like the farmer/shepherd family headed by a couple from Roxburgh and Dumfries in southern Scotland (10 “no Gaelic” returns). Then there was the elementary schoolteacher from St. Ninian’s in Stirlingshire with her household with three non-speakers. The hotelkeeper at *Drochaid Choinneachain* (Tummel Bridge) from England should be noted, too. His wife from Fife did not speak *Gàidhlig* as well (this added another three English only returns to the total). Last but not least, the joiner near *Both Chailleann* (Bohally), who was the sole *Gàidhlig* speaker in a family of nine.