

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: *Taobh Siar Rois (Wester Ross): Gleann a' Chàrnaich, An Coire Dubh, Am Maol Buidhe, Cill Fhaolain, Glomach, A'Chàrnaich, Bun Dà Loch, An Càrn Dubh*

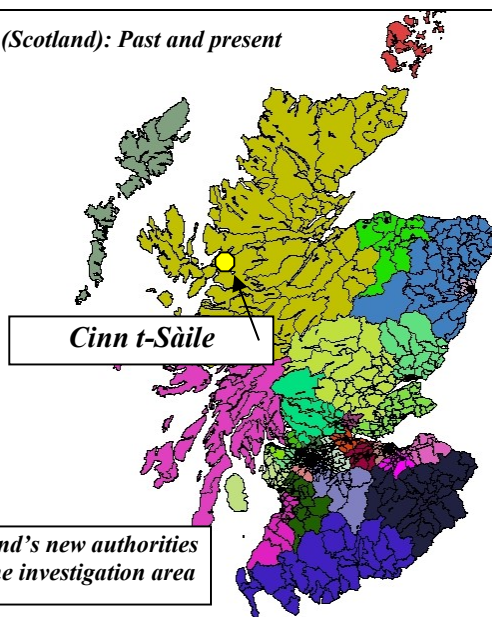
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Ironhouse, Glencarnich, Corrydubh, Mulbuie, Killilan, Fadoch, Carnoch, Glomach, Upper Bundalloch, Bundalloch, Cairnglas, Cairndubh)

Number of households: 65 **Population present at census night:** 254

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 99.5 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Ross & Cromarty</i>	<i>Kintail</i>	Kintail	5	1 - 7
			6	1 - 2
			7	1 - 9
			8	1 - 3

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

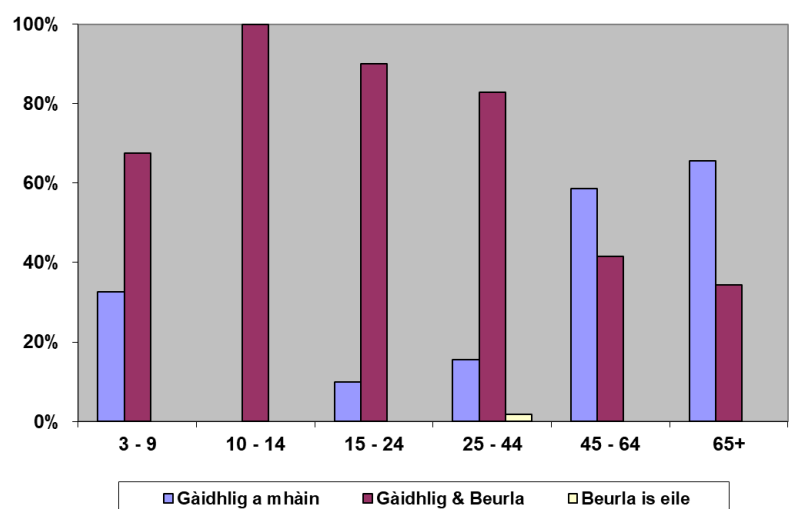
In this location the Gàidhlig language was used by all generations all the time. Around even a third of the populace spoke Gàidhlig alone.

Just one farmer who had moved in from Dumfriesshire could not speak the local tongue.

Area description:

This part of the parish of Cinn t-Sàile (Kintail) is the rather remote northern hinterland of the world-famous *Caisteal Eilean Donain* (Eilean Donan Castle). This is mountainous country with just a few tracks on wild moorland.

At the time of the census the glens and mountains were reigned by landlords and their gamekeepers and shepherds. The local crofters tried to make a living from animal husbandry and some coastal fishing. *Cill Fhaolain* (Killilan) and *Bun Dà Loch* (Bundalloch) were the only settlements in this area.



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	254	23	0	10	221	70	150	99.5 %
3-4	15	0	0	0	15	9	6	100.0 %
5-9	28	0	0	0	28	5	23	100.0 %
10-14	27	0	0	0	27	0	27	100.0 %
15-24	23	0	0	3	20	2	18	100.0 %
25-44	62	0	0	4	58	9	48	98.3 %
45-64	43	0	0	2	41	24	17	100.0 %
65+	33	0	0	1	32	21	11	100.0 %
Gender								
Female	128	9	0	3	116	47	69	100.0 %
Male	126	14	0	7	105	23	81	99.0 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	167	19	0	5	143	51	92	100.0 %
In neighbouring parish¹	40	2	0	5	33	12	21	100.0 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	41	2	0	0	39	7	32	100.0 %
Other places	6	0	0	0	6	0	5	83.3 %

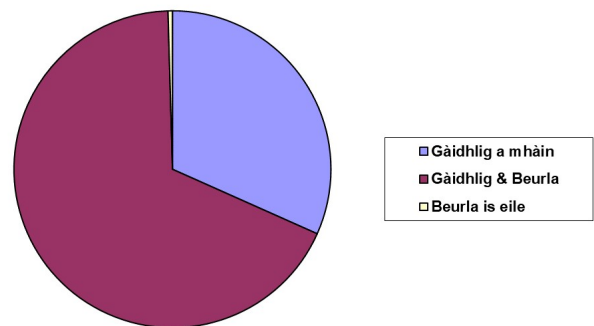
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Glenshiel, Lochalsh (both Ross & Cromarty) or Kilmorack (Inverness-shire).

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 & 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.

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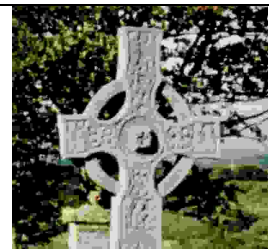
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Bun Dà Loch & Cill Fhaolain</i>	65	221	70	150	99.5 %
Individual communities					
<i>Cill Fhaolain & Gleann a'Chàrnaich</i> (Killilan & Glen Carnich)	22	84	6	77	98.8 %
<i>Bun Dà Loch & An Càrn Dubh</i> (Bundalloch & Cairndubh)	43	137	64	73	100.0 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	23	107	23	84	100.0 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	11	48	17	31	100.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	31	66	30	35	98.5 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	26	88	37	50	98.9 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	16	67	6	61	100.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	6	0	6	100.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	2	10	2	8	100.0 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	12	36	15	21	100.0 %
Remaining occupations	8	14	10	4	100.0 %

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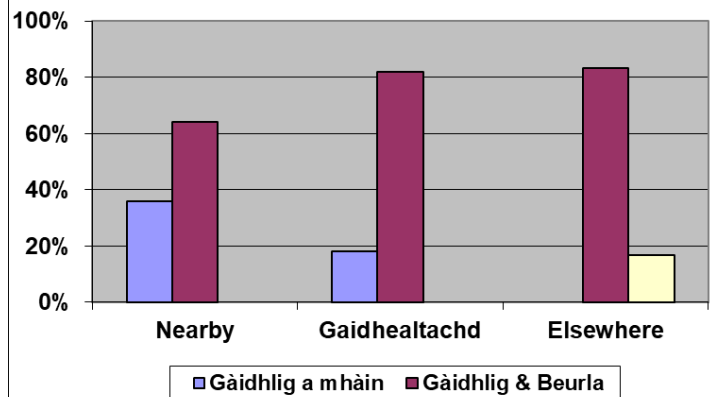
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken by everyone except a person alone (see remarks below).

Notes:

¹ Born either in Kintail or in the adjacent parishes of Glenshiel, Lochalsh (both Ross & Cromarty) or Kilmorack (Inverness-shire).

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 172 bilingual inhabitants and 77 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 254 persons (98.0 %). The usually resident population of 221 persons, on the other hand, consisted of just 220 Gàidhlig-speakers (99.5 %) including 70 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. The solitary “no Gaelic” entry was provided by a 37-year-old farmer from Dumfriesshire living in the tiny settlement of *Cill Fhaolain* (Killilan).