

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: *Na Garbh Chrìochan Pheairt (Highland Perthshire): Gleann Liobhann, Drochaid Balgaidh, Inbhir Mhuic, Caislidh*

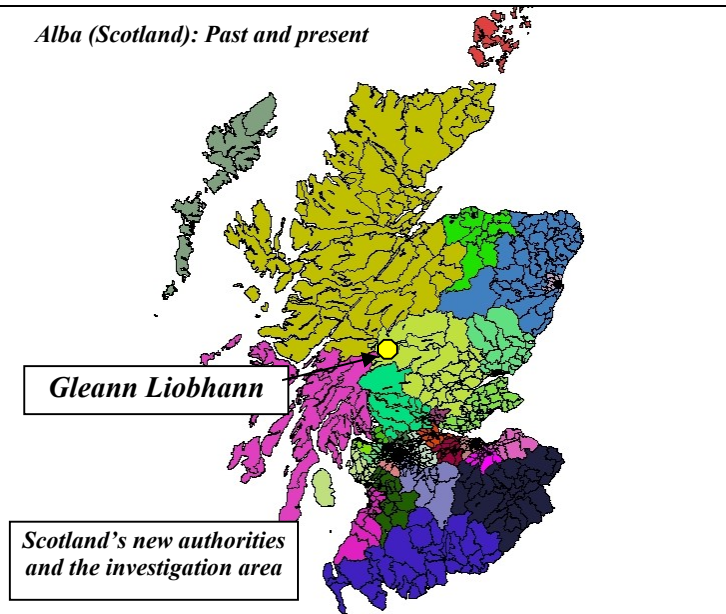
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Gallin, Maggernie, Balgy Bridge, Innerwick, Brough, Wester Statch, Ruskich, Invervar, Keeremore, Milton Eonan, Roroyare, Balmeanach, Balkanait, Roromore, Inverinan, Kenknock. Cashlie, Pubill, Invermeran, Benveanoch, Luban, Tomchorran, Lubreoch, Lubpenkernich)

Number of households: 69 **Population present at census night:** 290

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 85.5 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Perthshire	Fortingall (prev. Innerwick)	Innerwick in Glenlyon	1	1 – 9
			2	1 - 5

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

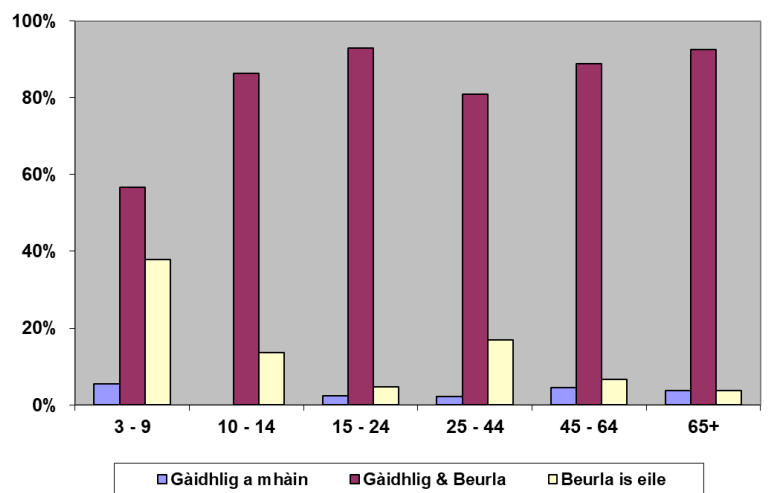
The Gàidhlig language was still very commonly used by most locals in all generations. Gàidhlig monolingualism, however, was on the way out with just eight persons not speaking English, too.

The 1891 census data reveal two linguistically very separate communities: On the one hand the “local” Gàidhlig-speakers, on the other hand estate workers, gardeners, shepherds, or farmers with Lowland or even English backgrounds. Most of the latter remained English monoglots.

Area description:

Gleann Liobhann (Glenlyon) is situated almost in the centre of Scotland and as such a secluded part of *Na Garbh Chrìochan Pheairt* (Highland Perthshire).

There were no villages in this narrow, but very long glen. Besides some estates (and a castle ruin) with shooting and shepherding interests, a few farms were working on the land (mainly animal husbandry).



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	290	15	0	13	262	8	216	85.5 %
3-4	12	0	0	0	12	1	5	50.0 %
5-9	26	0	0	1	25	1	16	68.0 %
10-14	22	0	0	0	22	0	19	86.4 %
15-24	42	0	0	0	42	1	39	95.2 %
25-44	96	0	0	7	89	2	72	83.1 %
45-64	48	0	0	3	45	2	40	93.3 %
65+	29	0	0	2	27	1	25	96.3 %
Gender								
Female	140	9	0	5	126	5	106	88.1 %
Male	150	6	0	8	136	3	110	83.1 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	126	8	0	3	115	2	106	93.9 %
In neighbouring parish¹	28	0	0	0	28	0	23	82.1 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	75	3	0	1	71	6	63	97.2 %
Other places	61	4	0	9	48	0	24	50.0 %

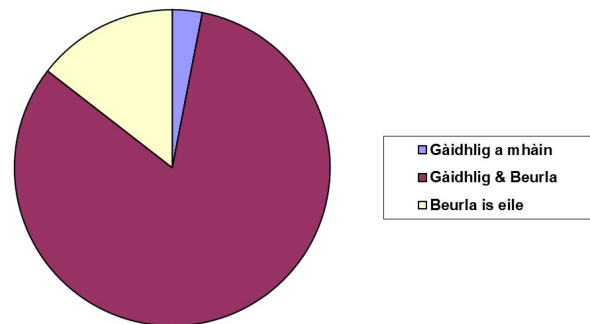
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Kenmore, Killin, Dull, Blair Atholl (all Perthshire), Lismore & Appin, Glenorchy & Inishail (both Argyll), Laggan or Kilmonivaig (both 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 & 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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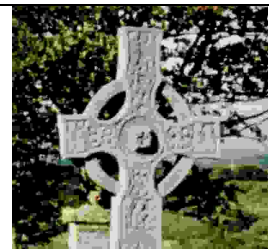
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Area: *Na Garbh Chrìochan Pheairt (Highland Perthshire): Gleann Liobhann, Drochaid Balgaidh, Inbhir Mhuic, Caislidh*

	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Gleann Liobhann</i>	69	262	8	216	85.5 %
Individual communities					
<i>Drochaid Balgaidh & Inbhir Mhuic</i> (Balgy Bridge & Innerwick)	51	183	5	162	91.3 %
<i>Caislidh & An Lùib Riabhach</i> (Cashlie & Lubreoch)	18	79	3	54	72.2 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	15	85	3	74	90.6 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	10	57	1	50	89.5 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	4	14	0	1	7.1 %
Households with no children (0-14)	40	106	4	91	89.6 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	19	107	3	89	86.0 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	13	47	1	35	76.6 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	5	10	0	8	80.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	8	41	1	36	92.5 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	1	2	0	0	0.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	15	43	2	36	88.4 %
Remaining occupations	8	13	1	12	100.0 %

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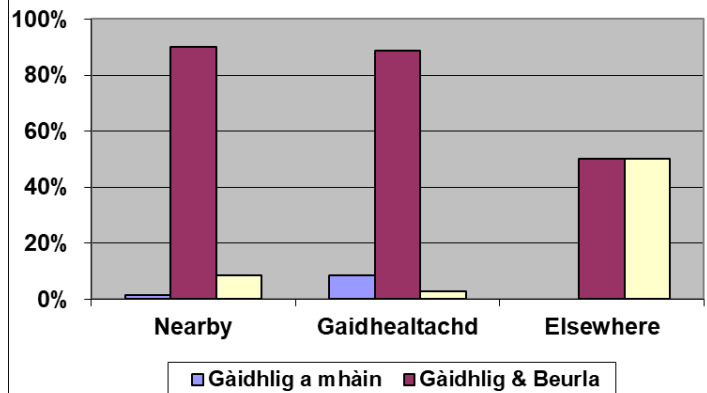
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was commonly spoken by both locally born inhabitants and those born in the wider *Gaidhealtachd*. Even some people born in far away places were able to speak *Gàidhlig*.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Fortingall (including Innerwick) or in the adjacent parishes of Kenmore, Killin, Dull, Blair Atholl (all Perthshire), Lismore & Appin, Glenorchy & Inishail (both Argyll), Laggan or Kilmonivaig (both 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 218 bilingual inhabitants and 8 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 297 persons (76.1 %). The usually resident population of some 262 persons, however, consisted of 224 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (85.5 %) including 8 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. The eight persons “without English” can be separated into two groups: Two locally born children had not yet started school. The six remaining monolingual speakers of *Gàidhlig* had come from other areas in the wider *Gaidhealtachd* and were already older.
3. The “English-only community” of 38 inhabitants was largely made up of seven families (30 people in total). They came from traditionally “Lowland” counties: Angus, Lancashire, Banffshire, and Dumfriesshire. These were estate labourers, gardeners, farmers, and shepherds brought in originally by the local highland estates.