

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 156

Page 1 of 4

Area: *Eilean Giogha (Isle of Gigha): Àird Mhinis, An t-Achadh Mòr, Àird a'Ghlamaidh, An Tairbeart, Na Cilltean, Creagach, Druim a'Chrò & Eilean Càra*

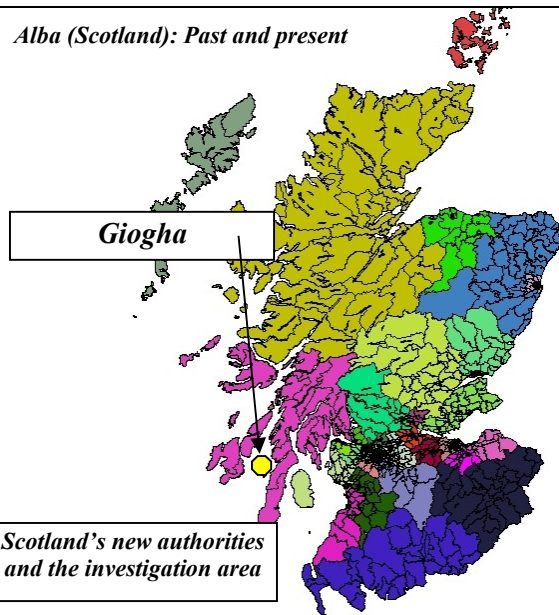
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Ardlamy, Achavinish, Drumyeorn, Tarbert, Inn, Ardailly, Ardminish, Keills Cottages, Achamore, Leim, Creagach, Cara Herd's House, Druimachro, Gallachaille)

Number of households: 73 **Population present at census night:** 382

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 88.4 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Argyll	Gigha & Cara	Gigha	1	1 – 9
			2	1 – 9

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

Gàidhlig was very much the language of the whole island community. Typical exceptions were the families of gamekeepers, ministers, and schoolteachers often with Lowland or even English backgrounds.

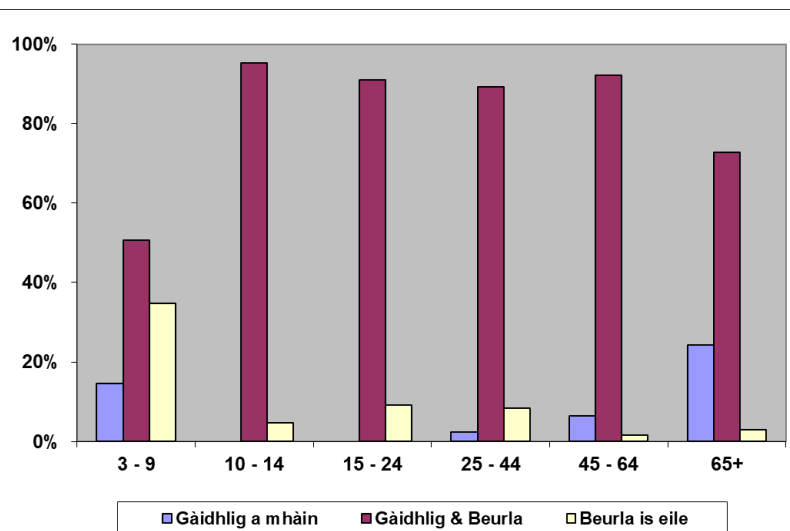
Another exceptional fact in this census enumeration were the relatively high numbers of English monolinguals among the children below 7 years of age.

Area description:

Gigha (Gigha) and its tiny sister island *Càra* lie off the western coast of the peninsula of *Cinn Tìre* (Kintyre).

Unlike the nearby mainland this was a very fertile island which provided even some arable land besides good grazing potentials for cattle and sheep.

At the time of this census *Gigha* was a private property and the local population lived at the whims of the landlord at the mansion of Achamore House.



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

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No. 156

Page 2 of 4

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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	382	30	0	6	346	24	282	88.4 %
3-4	21	0	0	0	21	5	2	33.3 %
5-9	48	0	0	0	48	5	33	79.2 %
10-14	42	0	0	0	42	0	40	95.2 %
15-24	55	0	0	0	55	0	50	90.9 %
25-44	88	0	0	4	84	2	75	91.7 %
45-64	65	0	0	2	63	4	58	98.4 %
65+	33	0	0	0	33	8	24	97.0 %
Gender								
Female	196	13	0	1	182	16	146	89.0 %
Male	186	17	0	5	164	8	136	87.8 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	290	29	0	2	259	20	214	90.3 %
In neighbouring parish¹	26	0	0	2	24	2	20	91.7 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	31	0	0	1	30	2	26	93.3 %
Other places	35	1	0	1	33	0	22	66.7 %

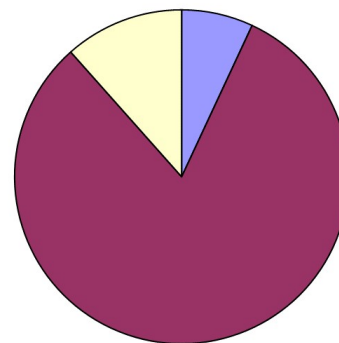
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Kilcalmonell or Killean & Kilchenzie.

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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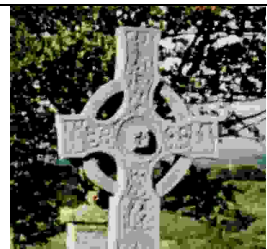
No. 156

Page 3 of 4

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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Eilean Gìogha</i>	73	346	24	282	0.0 %
Individual communities					
<i>Gìogha a Tuath</i> (North Gigha)	33	173	9	139	85.5 %
<i>Gìogha a Deas & Càra</i> (South Gigha & Cara)	40	173	15	143	91.3 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	32	184	14	146	87.0 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	14	62	3	55	93.5 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	3	21	0	17	81.0 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	1	4	0	0	0.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	23	75	7	64	94.7 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	28	154	9	129	89.6 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	5	20	0	16	80.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	3	20	0	12	60.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	4	15	0	13	86.7 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	13	57	5	48	93.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	15	63	5	53	92.1 %
Remaining occupations	5	17	5	11	94.1 %

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Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Page 4 of 4

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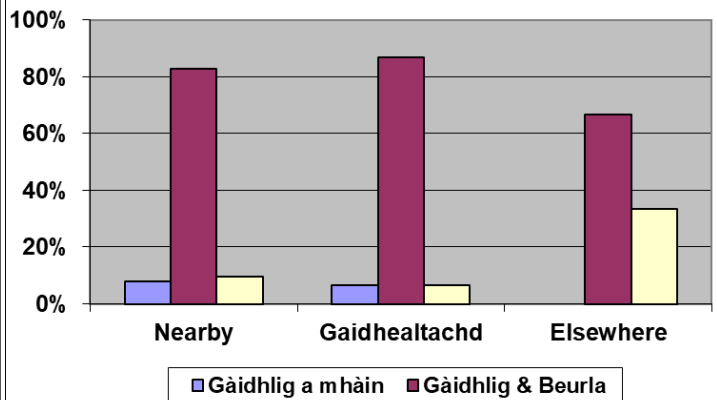
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken by a large majority of inhabitants born on the island, nearby or in the wider *Gaidhealtachd*.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Gigha & Cara or in the adjacent parishes of Killean & Kilchenzie or Kilcalmonell.

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 301 bilingual inhabitants and 24 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 401 persons (81.0%). The usually resident population of 360 inhabitants, however, consisted of 306 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (88.4%) including 24 persons “with no English”.
2. The 24 inhabitants with “no English” were either below or far above school age.
3. More than half of the “no Gaelic” part of the population (22 out of 40) was younger than seven years of age.