

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 160

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Area: *Latharn (Lorn): A'Chùil, Salachan, Durar, Achadh nan Darach, Ceann an t-Sàilein, An Leitir Mòr, Baile a'Chaolais a Deas*

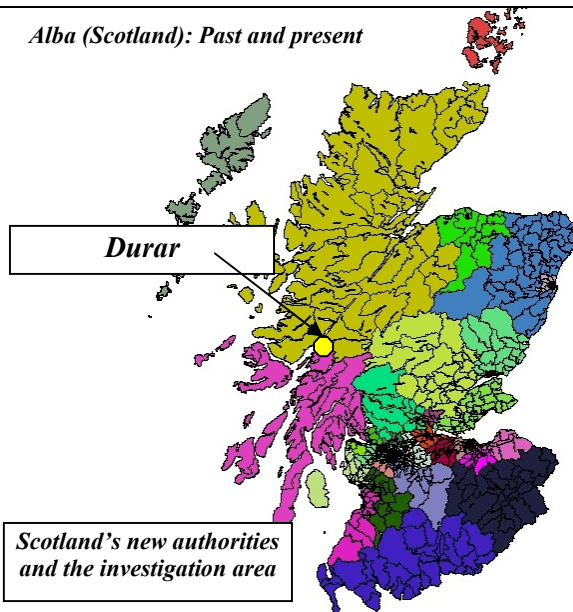
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Acharra, Sallachan, Achlair, Balloch, Keil, Dalnatraid, Cuil, Duror Inn, Achandarroch, Lagnaha, Kintallen, Ardsheal, Lettermore, Ballachulish)

Number of households: 79 **Population present at census night:** 405

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 83.6 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Argyll	Lismore & Appin	Duror	1	1 - 6
			2	1 - 13

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

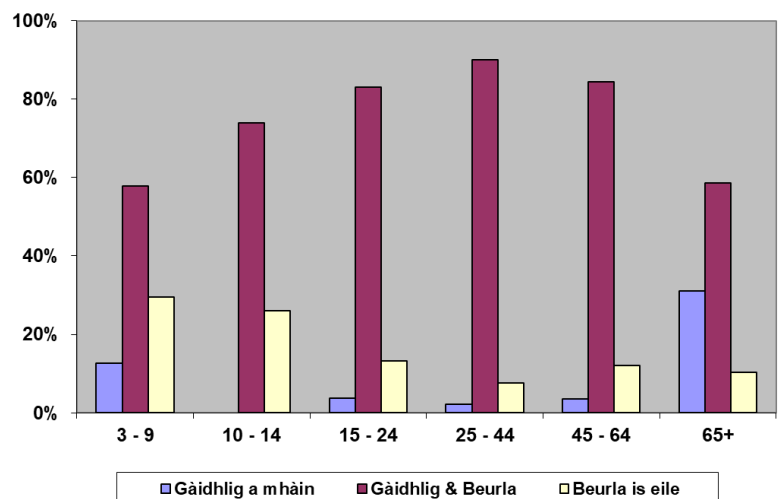
The Gàidhlig language was used widely among local inhabitants in the communities of this coastal area. There were even still people using the local language exclusively - especially among the very young and the elderly.

The relatively high number of English monoglots counted in 1891 was due to the quarrying activities especially around *An Leitir Mòr* (Lettermore). This attracted quite a few working folks from far afield.

Area description:

The area in question is situated on the southeastern shores of *An Linne Dhubh* (Loch Linnhe). Only a handful of communities existed on the narrow coastal strip between the island of *Lios Mòr* and the fjord of *Loch Liobhann*.

Major work opportunities (besides the traditional crofting and inshore fishing) provided the extensive slate and granite quarrying works both at *An Leitir Mòr* (Lettermore) and at *Baile a'Chaolais* (Ballachulish).



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	405	31	1	25	348	24	267	83.6 %
3-4	20	0	0	0	20	3	11	70.0 %
5-9	51	0	0	0	51	6	30	70.6 %
10-14	46	0	0	0	46	0	34	73.9 %
15-24	60	0	0	7	53	2	44	86.8 %
25-44	103	0	1	11	91	2	82	92.3 %
45-64	62	0	0	4	58	2	49	87.9 %
65+	32	0	0	3	29	9	17	89.7 %
Gender								
Female	193	15	0	5	173	14	135	86.1 %
Male	212	16	1	20	175	10	132	81.1 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	236	27	0	5	204	17	159	86.3 %
In neighbouring parish¹	26	1	0	1	24	2	22	100.0 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	72	2	0	3	67	5	61	98.5 %
Other places	71	1	1	16	53	0	25	47.2 %

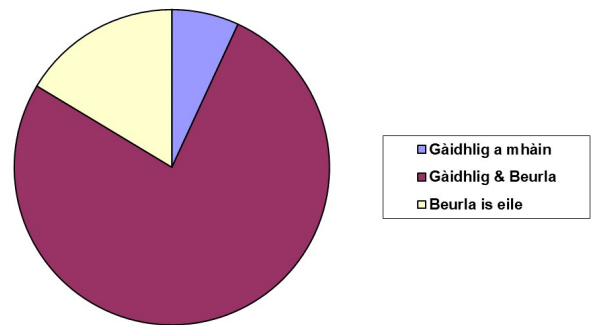
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Kilmallie (Inverness-shire), Ardchattan & Muckairn or Glenorchy & Inishail (both Argyll).

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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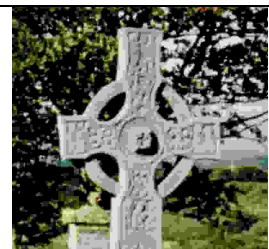
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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Durar & Baile a'Chaolais a Deas</i>	79	348	24	267	83.6 %
Individual communities					
<i>Salachan & A'Chùil</i> (Sallachan & Cuil)	22	122	8	99	96.4 %
<i>Ceann an t-Sàilein & Durar</i> (Kentallen & Duror)	38	177	9	125	84.4 %
<i>An Leitir Mòr</i> (Lettermore)	12	79	0	31	54.4 %
<i>Baile a'Chaolais a Deas</i> (South Ballachulish)	7	27	7	12	86.4 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	31	182	9	157	91.2 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	12	46	5	37	91.3 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	3	17	1	4	29.4 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	4	20	0	7	35.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	29	83	9	62	85.5 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	13	80	4	73	96.3 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	11	68	7	59	97.1 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	5	26	0	15	57.7 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	16	59	9	40	83.1 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	9	46	2	23	54.3 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	17	52	2	41	82.7 %
Remaining occupations	8	17	0	16	94.1 %

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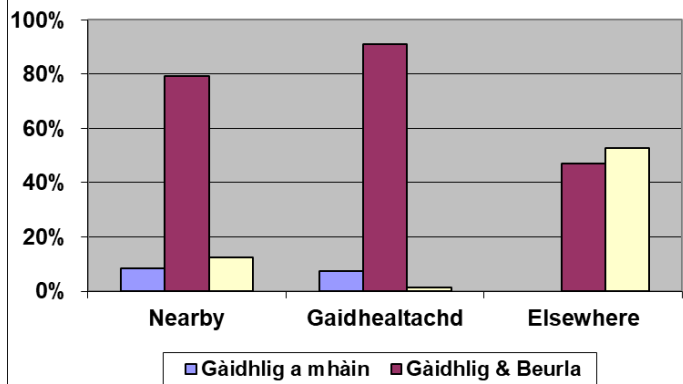
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was almost universally spoken by inhabitants born nearby or in the wider *Gàidhealtachd*. Those coming from further afield were far less likely to speak the local tongue.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Lismore & Appin or in the adjacent parishes of Kilmallie (Inverness-shire), Ardchattan & Muckairn or Glenorchy & Inishail (both Argyll).

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 284 bilingual inhabitants and 28 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 412 persons (75.7%). The usually resident population of 348 inhabitants, however, consisted of 291 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (83.6%) including 24 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. The overall percentage of *Gàidhlig speakers* was somewhat artificially reduced by the appearance of ten quarrier families in *An Leitir Mòr* (Lettermore). They came in most parts from the Scottish Lowlands, England, and even Ireland and knew no *Gàidhlig*.