

# 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*

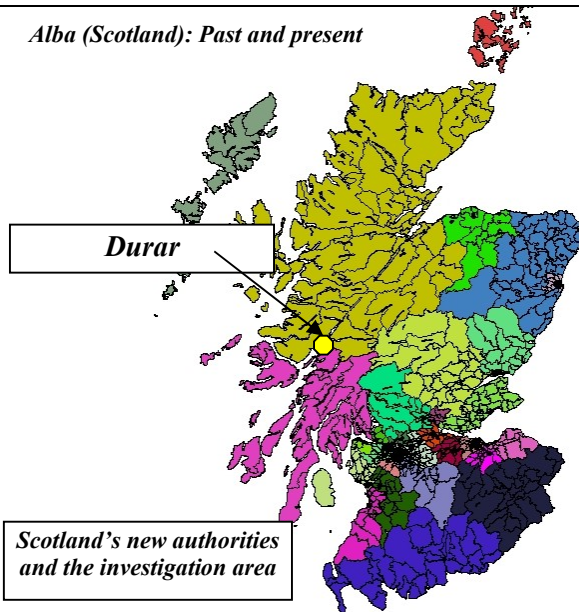
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Acharra, Sallachan, Achclair, Balloch, Keil, Dalnatraid, Cuil, Duror Inn, Achandarroch, Lagnaha, Kintallen, Ardsheal, Lettermore, Ballachulish, Ballachulish Hotel)

**Number of households:** 85    **Population present at census night:** 453

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 84.4 %

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

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

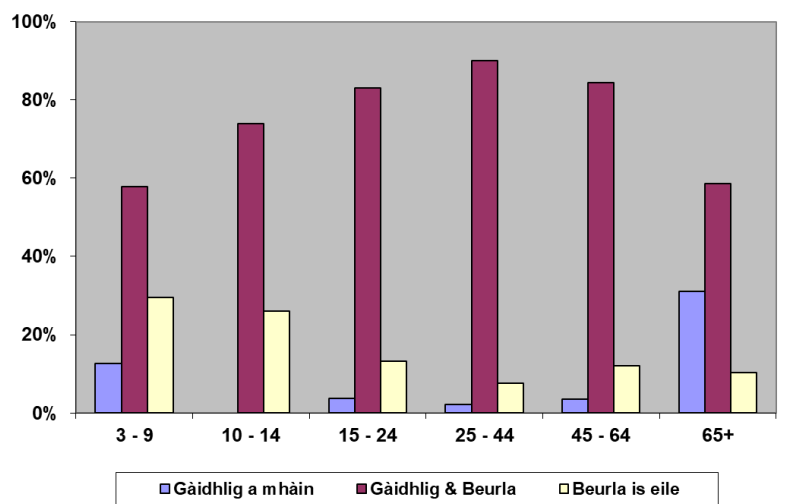
The Gàidhlig language was used widely among local inhabitants in the communities of this coastal area. There were even still people using the local language exclusively - especially among the very young and the elderly.

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. <sup>3</sup>	Total <sup>4</sup>	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>84.4 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>71.4 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>67.9 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>76.0 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>89.4 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>93.3 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>85.9 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>90.9 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>86.7 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>82.2 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>86.8 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>103</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>97.9 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>44.6 %</b>

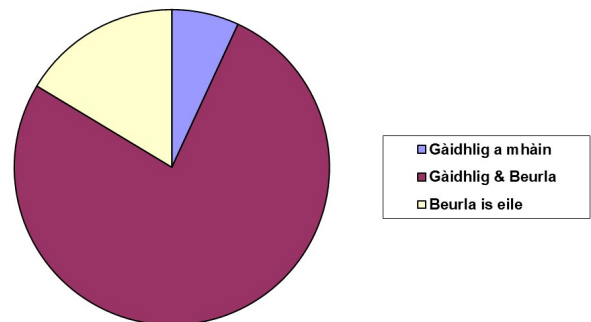
## Notes:

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

<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 & 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](http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP_english.htm).

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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Durar &amp; Baile a'Chaolais a Deas</i>	85	392	26	305	84.4 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Salachan &amp; A'Chùil</i> (Sallachan & Cuil)	22	111	8	99	96.4 %
<i>Ceann an t-Sàilein &amp; Durar</i> (Kentallen & Duror)	38	158	9	125	84.8 %
<i>An Leitir Mòr</i> (Lettermore)	12	57	0	31	54.4 %
<i>Baile a'Chaolais a Deas</i> (South Ballachulish)	13	66	9	50	89.4 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
<b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>	33	212	10	184	91.5 %
<b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	13	49	5	40	91.8 %
<b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	3	17	1	4	29.4 %
<b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>	4	20	0	7	35.0 %
<b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>	32	94	10	70	85.1 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
<b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>	14	101	4	94	97.0 %
<b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>	12	71	7	62	97.2 %
<b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>	5	26	0	15	57.7 %
<b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>	17	68	10	46	82.4 %
<b>Living on private means</b>	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>	9	46	2	23	54.3 %
<b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>	19	60	2	47	81.7 %
<b>Remaining occupations</b>	9	20	1	18	95.0 %

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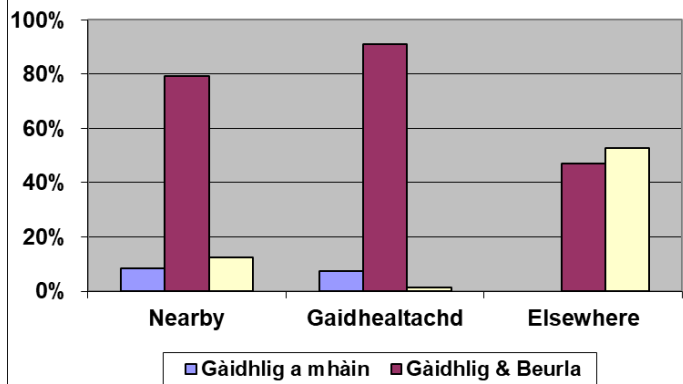
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

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:

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

<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 324 bilingual inhabitants and 31 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 460 persons (77.2%). The usually resident population of 392 inhabitants, however, consisted of 331 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (84.4%) including 26 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*.