

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: *Na Garbh Chrìochan Pheairt (Highland Perthshire): Both Chuidir, Ceann Loch Èire, Achadh Ràth, Srath Eadhair, Taigh an Rìgh, Inbhir Loch Làirig & Bràighean Both Chuidir*

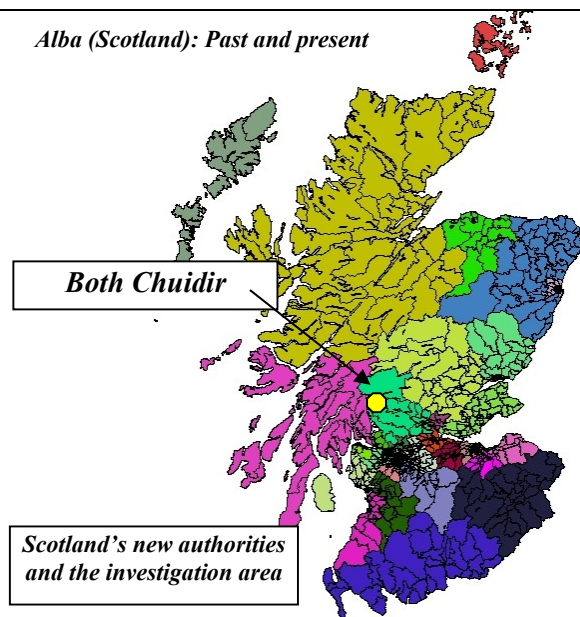
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Balafoil, Ardoch, Keip, Edinchip, Craggan, Lochearnhead, Glenogle, Edinample, Kingshouse Inn, Auchraw, Strathyre, Monachyle, Inverlochlarig, Muirlaggan, Stronvar)

Number of households: 155 **Population present at census night:** 704

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 67.7 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Perthshire	Balquhidder	Balquhidder	1	1 - 9
			2	1 - 11
			3	1 - 6
			4	1 - 9

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

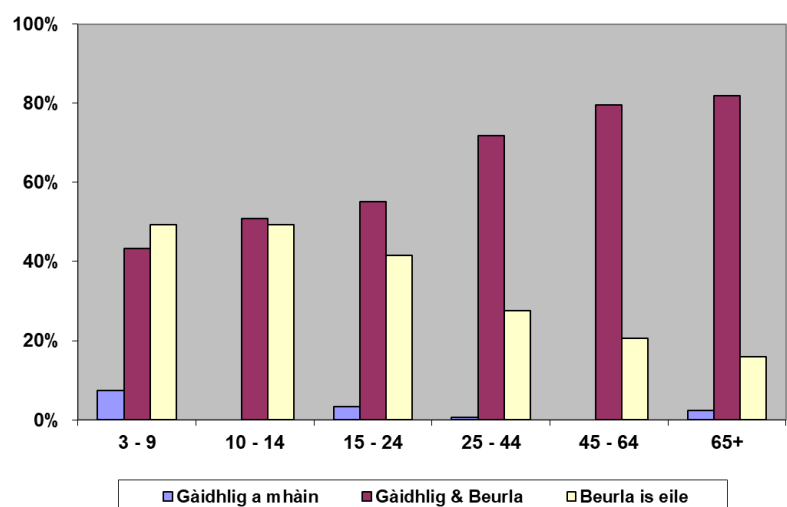
The language was still commonly used in the generations beyond 25 years of age, though younger folk more and more spoke only English. In the westernmost glens, however, even a few inhabitants still did not speak English.

However, there were stark geographical differences. On the one side were the more anglicised regions around *Loch Èire* (Loch Earn) and *Srath Eadhair* (Strathyre), on the other the still strongly Gàidhlig-speaking glens in the *Bràighean Both Chuidir* (Braes of Balquhidder).

Area description:

The investigation region covers a wide hilly, even mountainous country in the west of *Siorrachd Pheairt* (Perthshire). Settlements were confined to the narrow glens and clinged often near the lochsides and streams.

Major villages were *Srath Eadhair* (Strathyre) and *Ceann Loch Èire* (Lochearnhead). They owed their existence mostly by their positions on important north-south and east-west “link roads” between Lowlands and Highlands.



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	704	41	0	34	629	13	413	67.7 %
3-4	21	0	0	1	20	1	9	50.0 %
5-9	61	0	0	0	61	5	26	50.8 %
10-14	65	0	0	2	63	0	32	50.8 %
15-24	120	0	0	2	118	4	65	58.5 %
25-44	182	0	0	15	167	2	120	72.5 %
45-64	120	0	0	8	112	0	89	79.5 %
65+	94	0	0	6	88	2	72	84.1 %
Gender								
Female	360	25	0	12	323	6	212	67.5 %
Male	344	16	0	22	306	7	201	68.0 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	354	34	0	7	313	8	231	76.4 %
In neighbouring parish¹	71	0	0	4	67	1	48	73.1 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	129	1	0	4	124	4	104	87.1 %
Other places	150	6	0	19	125	0	30	24.0 %

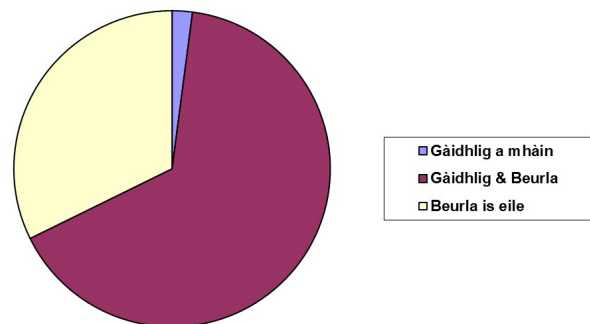
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Killin, Comrie or Callander (all Perthshire).

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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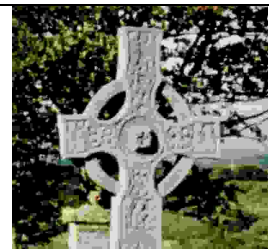
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Both Chuidir & Ceann Loch Èire</i>	155	629	13	413	67.7 %
Individual communities					
<i>Srath Eadhair & Taigh an Rìgh</i> (Strathyre & Kingshouse)	40	127	0	84	66.1 %
<i>Both Chuidir & Ceann Loch Èire</i> (Balquhidder & Lochearnhead)	59	243	0	161	66.3 %
<i>Achadh Ràth & Dail Bheathaich</i> (Auchraw & Dalveich)	27	105	0	55	52.4 %
<i>Bràighean Both Chuidir</i> (Braes of Balquhidder)	29	154	13	113	81.8 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	31	180	12	138	83.3 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	15	75	0	61	81.3 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	11	64	0	16	25.0 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	11	43	0	3	7.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	87	267	1	195	73.4 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	59	290	10	207	74.8 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	16	75	3	35	50.7 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	8	27	0	7	25.9 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	26	86	0	73	84.9 %
Living on private means	5	15	0	6	40.0 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	7	31	0	13	41.9 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	31	94	0	67	71.3 %
Remaining occupations	3	11	0	5	45.5 %

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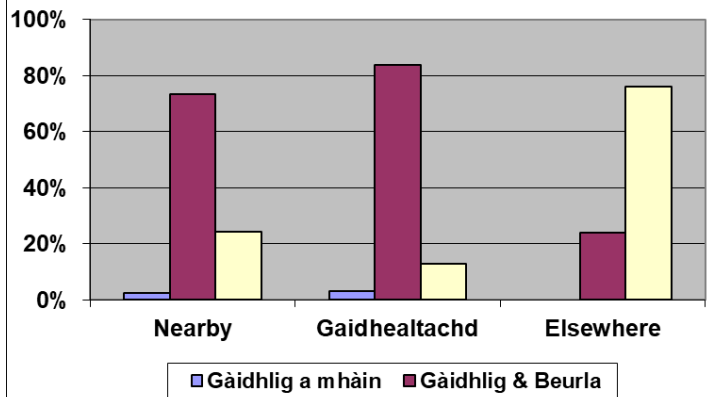
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was widely spoken by those born nearby or in the wider *Gaidhealtachd*, although less so among the younger generation. Those born elsewhere were rather reluctant to use the local vernacular.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Balquhidder or in the adjacent parishes of Killin, Comrie and Callander (all Perthshire).

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 428 bilingual inhabitants and 18 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 728 persons (61.3%). The usually resident population of 629 persons, however, consisted of 426 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (67.7%) including 13 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. All monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers were found in the more inaccessible area of the *Bràighean Both Chuidir* (Braes of Balquhidder). Among them were three children (9, 8, and 5 years of age) of a shepherd’s family in *Monachall* (Monachyle), which was headed by a father from Dunbartonshire and a mother from Kilmadock in Perthshire - a rare example of cultural integration in those days. Another “Gaelic only” family was registered nearby with parents born and bred in *Both Chuidir* and providing seven monolingual counts to the total. The final three examples were a 20-year-old dairymaid from *Uibhist a Deas* (South Uist), a 66-year-old farmer from *Aird Chatain* (Ardchattan), and a 22-year-old servant from *Cill Fhinn* (Killin). The latter ten inhabitants all lived near *Inbhir Loch Làirig* (Inverlochlarig) at the very end of the glen.