

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: *Srath Ghlais (Strathglass): Canaich, Cròchail, Cnoc Finn, Fasadh na Coille, Tom Buidhe, Muchrachd, Allt Beithe & Gleann Afraig*

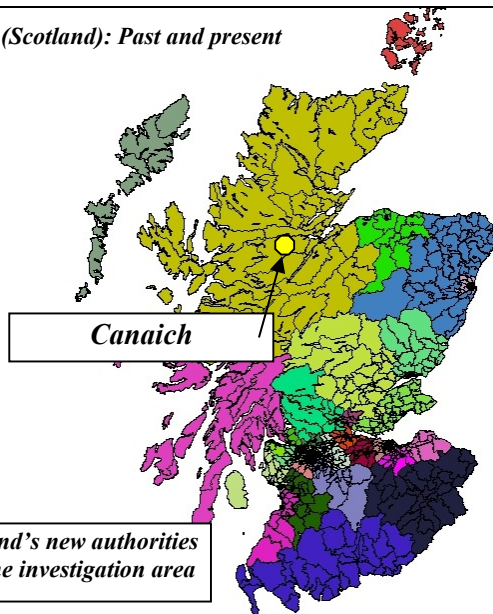
(Names of enumeration locations used on census form: Inchully, Crask of Crochail, Creek, Marydale, Comer Muir, Cannich, Glaicksheallach, Fasnakyle, Knockfin, Tombuie, Crasky, Muckrach, Leitry, Corach, Affaric, Aultbeath)

Number of households: 56 Population present at census night: 184

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 94.0 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Inverness-shire</i>	<i>Kilmorack</i>	Kilmorack	12	1 - 3
			13	1 - 6
			14	1 - 2
			15	1 - 2

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

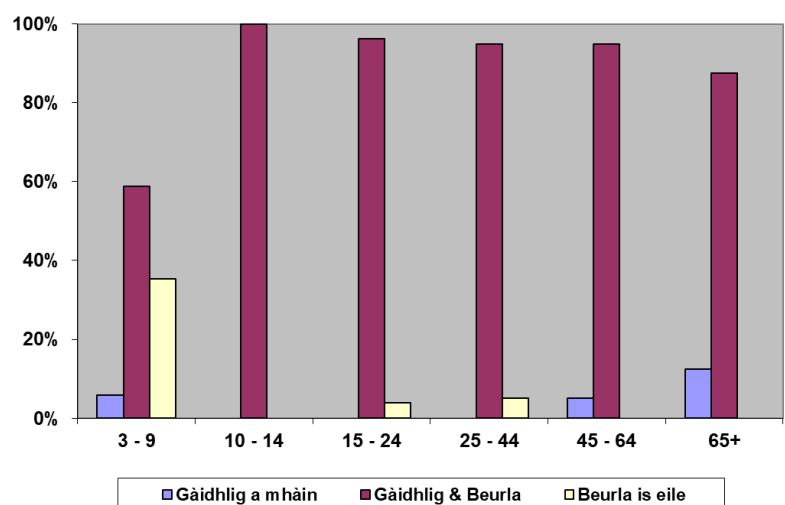
The vast part of the population was Gàidhlig-speaking through all generations. Although monolingual speakers were less common.

The only occupations without Gàidhlig language connections seemed to be church ministers and schoolteachers. But this cultural ignorance was very common among these “notables” in those days.

Area description:

The investigation area lies at the southernmost end of the long *Srath Ghlais* (Strathglass) which connects the fertile farmlands of the Linne Fharair (Beaully Firth) to the rugged mountains of *Gleann Afraig* (Glen Affric).

Apart from the small village of *Canaich* (Cannich) the population was scattered very thinly in this region. Major occupations were forestry work, shepherding and of course gamekeeping.



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	184	7	0	10	167	5	152	94.0 %
3-4	4	0	0	0	4	0	2	50.0 %
5-9	14	0	0	1	13	1	8	69.2 %
10-14	12	0	0	2	10	0	10	100.0 %
15-24	26	0	0	0	26	0	25	96.2 %
25-44	65	0	0	6	59	0	56	94.9 %
45-64	40	0	0	1	39	2	37	100.0 %
65+	16	0	0	0	16	2	14	100.0 %
Gender								
Female	99	4	0	5	90	3	79	91.1 %
Male	85	3	0	5	77	2	73	97.4 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	69	5	0	2	62	5	53	93.5 %
In neighbouring parish¹	52	0	0	0	52	0	52	100.0 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	42	2	0	3	37	0	37	100.0 %
Other places	21	0	0	5	16	0	10	62.5 %

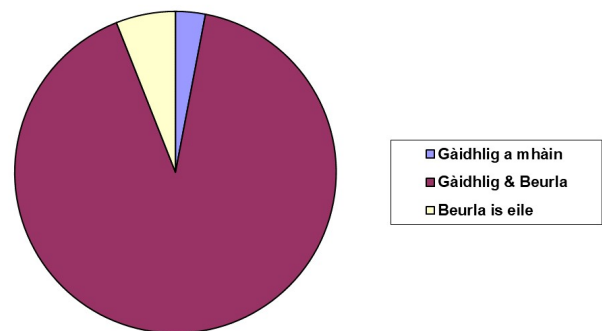
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Kiltarlity & Convinth, Kirkhill (both Inverness-shire), Glenshiel, Kintail, Lochalsh and Urray (all Ross & Cromarty).

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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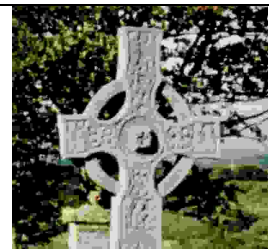
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Area: *Srath Ghlais (Strathglass): Canaich, Cròchail, Cnoc Finn, Fasadh na Coille, Tom Buidhe, Muchrachd, Allt Beithe & Gleann Afraig*

	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Canaich & Gleann Afraig</i>	56	167	5	152	94.0 %
Individual communities					
<i>Cròchail (Crochail)</i>	11	39	4	35	100.0 %
<i>Canaich (Cannich)</i>	14	53	0	48	90.6 %
<i>Fasadh na Coille & Cnoc Finn (Fasnakyle & Knockfin)</i>	15	42	0	37	88.1 %
<i>Gleann Afraig & Allt Beithe (Glen Affric & Alltbeithe)</i>	16	33	1	32	100.0 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	11	52	1	49	96.2 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	3	15	0	15	100.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	8	0	3	37.5 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	1	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	40	92	4	85	96.7 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	6	29	4	25	100.0 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	24	67	0	67	100.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	4	17	0	7	41.2 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	3	12	0	12	100.0 %
Living on private means	3	18	0	18	100.0 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	4	6	0	6	100.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	6	11	0	11	100.0 %
Remaining occupations	6	7	1	6	100.0 %

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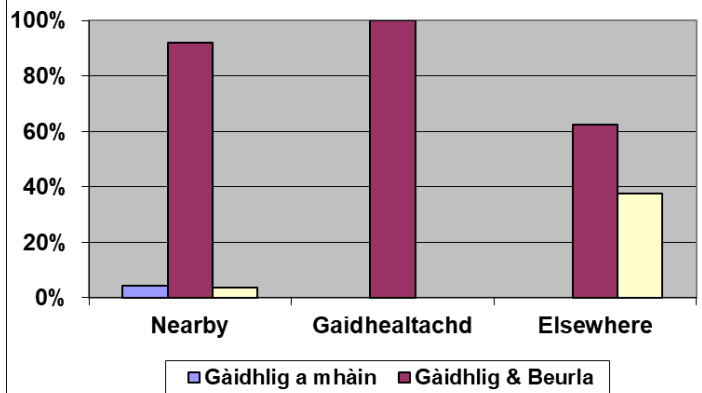
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken by virtually everyone except of a handful of incomers from further away.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Kilmorack or in the adjacent parishes of Kiltarlity & Convinth, Kirkhill (both Inverness-shire), Glenshiel, Kintail, Lochalsh and Urray (all Ross & Cromarty).

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 156 bilingual inhabitants and six monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 183 persons (88.5%). The usually resident population, however, consisted of 157 Gàidhlig-speakers (94.0%) including five inhabitants “with no English”.
2. Four of the five persons with “Gaelic only” records were found in a farmer’s family in *Cròchail*. The remaining monolingual Gàidhlig-speaker was a 55-year-old lady living as annuitant near Muckrach House.
3. There were just ten persons who did not have a “G” or “G&E” mark on their census sheet. Five such inhabitants lived in the household of the Free Church Minister in *Fasadh na Coille* (Fasnakyle). His wife came originally from *Hacraig* (Halkirk) and raised their offspring in her mother tongue, only. Another two monolingual English speakers were two children in the teacher’s household in *Canaich* (Cannich). And finally, there were two “English only” speakers found in the clergyman’s household in *Dail Mhàiri* (Marydale); a monolingual schoolmistress next door completed the picture.