

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 179

Page 1 of 4

Area: *Bàideanach (Badenoch): Ràt Mhurchais (Rothiemurchus), Inbhir Drùidh, An Dail, Drochaid na Coileum, Tulach Dhrù, Allt nan Cabair, An Dùn & Loch an Eilein*

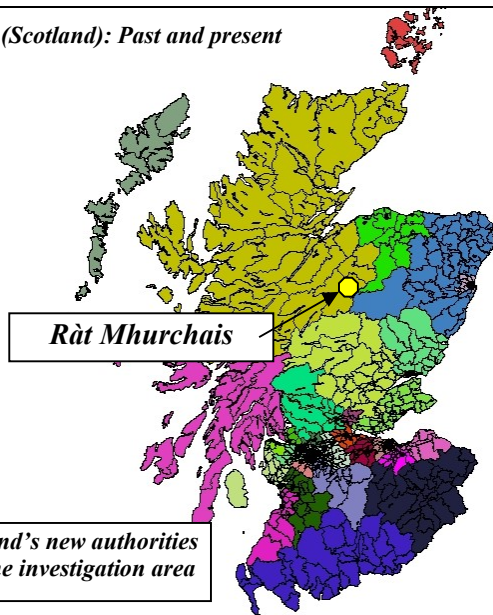
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Inverdrueie, Dell Farm, Coylumbridge, Doune, Lochaneilan, Guislich, Achnahatnich, Moormore, Altnacaber, Doune, Meilton, Ryanachan, Blackpark, Tullochgrue, Achnagoian)

Number of households: 67 **Population present at census night:** 266

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 79.1 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Inverness-shire	Duthil & Rothiemurchus	Rothiemurchus	1	1 – 11
			2	1 - 14

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

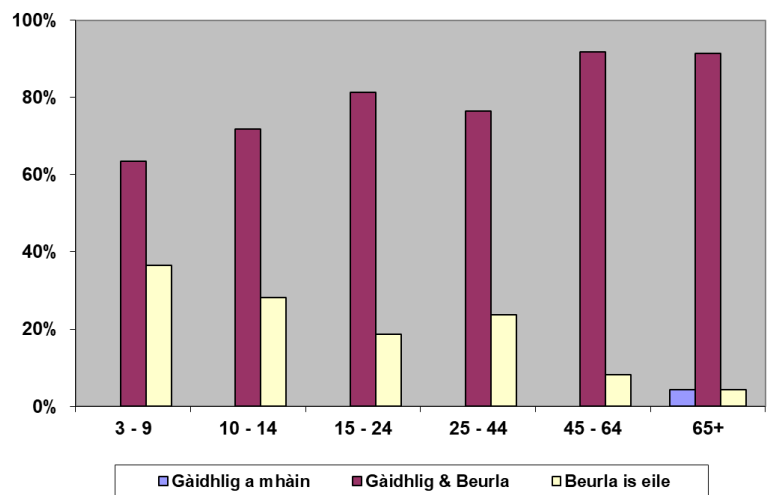
The vast majority of the local population still spoke Gàidhlig in 1891, although among the very young “English only” made some advances. Apart from one old lady all inhabitants could speak English, too.

The Gàidhlig language was especially strong in the more remote locations of the area such as the homesteads around *Loch an Eilein*. The locations of *Inbhir Drùidh* (Inverdrueie) and *An Dùn* (Doune), however, were nearer to the main road to *An Aghaidh Mhòr* (Aviemore) and attracted more incomers to settle.

Area description:

The old forest of *Ràt Mhurchais* (Rothiemurchus) is one of the last remnants of the ancient Caledonian Forest. It lies in the centre of the Highlands in the renowned region of *Bàideanach* (Badenoch).

At the time of the census the forest of home to a small population mainly of foresters and gamekeepers, but there were still a few farmers active in this area.



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

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 179

Page 2 of 4

Area: *Bàideanach (Badenoch): Ràt Mhurchais (Rothiemurchus), Inbhir Drùidh, An Dail, Drochaid na Coileum, Tulach Dhrù, Allt nan Cabair, An Dùn & Loch an Eilein*

	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. ³	Total ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	266	16	0	11	239	1	188	79.1 %
3-4	6	0	0	1	5	0	3	60.0 %
5-9	37	0	0	1	36	0	23	63.9 %
10-14	40	0	0	1	39	0	28	71.8 %
15-24	34	0	0	2	32	0	26	81.3 %
25-44	59	0	0	4	55	0	42	76.4 %
45-64	49	0	0	0	49	0	45	91.8 %
65+	25	0	0	2	23	1	21	95.7 %
Gender								
Female	135	6	0	3	126	1	101	81.0 %
Male	131	10	0	8	113	0	87	77.0 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	165	13	0	2	150	0	125	83.3 %
In neighbouring parish¹	11	0	0	2	9	0	9	100.0 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	64	2	0	6	56	1	45	82.1 %
Other places	26	1	0	1	24	0	9	37.5 %

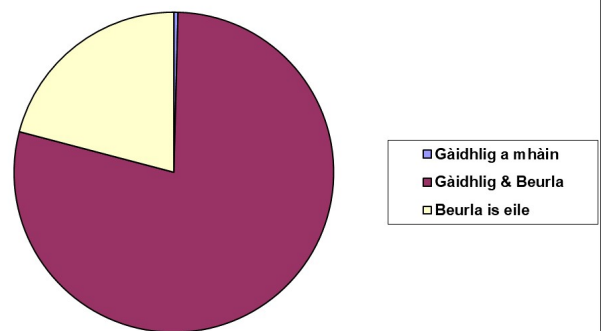
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Alvie, Moy & Dalarossie, Abernethy & Kincardine (all Inverness-shire) or Crathie & Braemar (Aberdeenshire)

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.

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

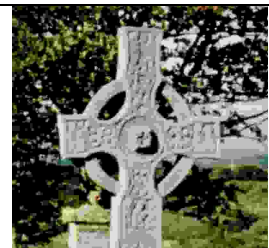
No. 179

Page 3 of 4

Area: *Bàideanach (Badenoch): Ràt Mhurchais (Rothiemurchus), Inbhir Drùidh, An Dail, Drochaid na Coileum, Tulach Dhrù, Allt nan Cabair, An Dùn & Loch an Eilein*

	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Ràt Mhurchais</i>	67	239	1	188	79.1 %
Individual communities					
<i>Inbhir Drùidh</i> (Inverdrue)	16	45	0	28	62.2 %
<i>Drochaid na Coileum</i> (Coilumbridge)	11	36	0	33	91.7 %
<i>Allt nan Cabair</i> (Altnacaper)	9	41	1	39	97.6 %
<i>An Dùn</i> (Doune)	11	44	0	22	50.0 %
<i>Loch an Eilein</i> (Loch an Eilein)	7	21	0	18	83.7 %
<i>Tulach Dhrù</i> (Tullochgrue)	13	52	0	48	92.3 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	20	118	0	98	83.1 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	4	14	0	14	100.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	3	13	0	6	46.2 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	2	10	0	0	0.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	38	84	1	70	84.5 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	6	39	1	34	89.7 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	6	28	0	24	85.7 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	3	6	0	1	16.7 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	12	47	0	33	70.2 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	5	28	0	14	50.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	33	85	0	80	94.1 %
Remaining occupations	2	6	0	2	33.3 %

© Text and statistics: Copyright Kurt C. Duwe. All rights reserved except private and non-commercial use. Any other use has to be cleared by the author Kurt C. Duwe, Jägerstr. 120a, 21079 Hamburg, Germany (duwe@linguae-celticae.de) and it may also fall under restrictions of the Crown Copyright of census data. Statistics have been derived from 1891 census returns published by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS). The use of this material here is permitted under Licence No. C02W0003665. Crown Copyright of census data is acknowledged. The digital boundaries shown on the Scotland map are courtesy of Ordnance Survey as part of the Geography Products provided by GROS. Additional individual profiles may be downloaded from a special page on the Linguae Celticae website: http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP_english.htm



Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 179

Page 4 of 4

Area: *Bàideanach (Badenoch): Ràt Mhurchais (Rothiemurchus), Inbhir Drùidh, An Dail, Drochaid na Coileum, Tulach Dhrù, Allt nan Cabair, An Dùn & Loch an Eilein*

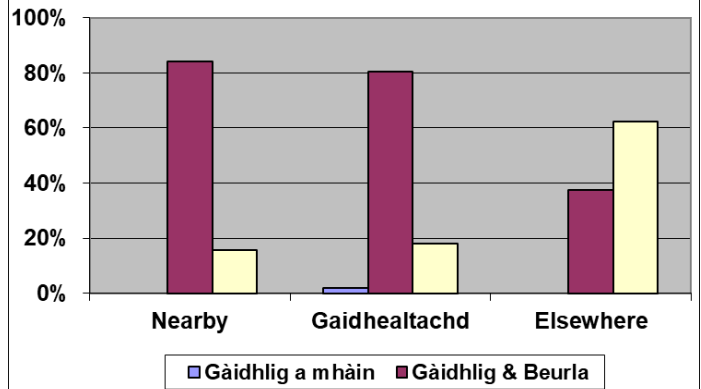
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was widely used by those born nearby or in the wider *Gaidhealtachd* – but less so in younger age groups. Those born in the Lowlands or even further away were not very successful in learning the local tongue – if they tried to.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Duthil & Rothiemurchus or in the adjacent parishes of Alvie, Moy & Dalarossie, Abernethy & Kincardine (all Inverness-shire) or Crathie & Braemar (Aberdeenshire).

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 198 bilingual inhabitants and 8 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 266 persons (77.4%). The usually resident population of 239, however, consisted of 189 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (79.1%) including one inhabitant “with no English”.
2. The only monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speaker in the resident population was a 79-year-old farmer’s wife from the neighbouring parish of *Obar Neithich* (Abernethy). She lived near *Allt nan Cabair* (Altnacaper).
3. Originally recorded by the census was a *Gàidhlig* monolingual tinsmith family with seven members in *Tulach Dhrù Iosal* (Lower Tullochgrue). By definition, they could not be counted in these statistics as they were not residing in the area.