

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: Lagan (Laggan): Baile a'Ghobhainn, Lagan, An Gasg Mòr, An Gasg Beag, Cluanaidh, An t-Achadh Mòr, A'Chreag Dhubh, Craichidh

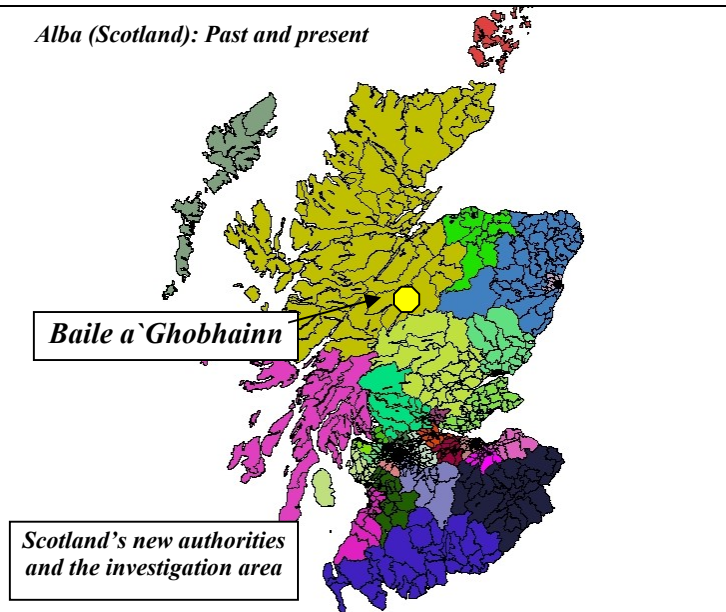
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Gaskmore, Gaskbeg, Balgown, Cluny, Auchmore, Craighdu, Laggan, Gergask, Balmishaig & Crathy)

Number of households: 71 Population present at census night: 316

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 80.4 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Inverness-shire	Laggan	Laggan	1	1 - 8
			2	1 - 6

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

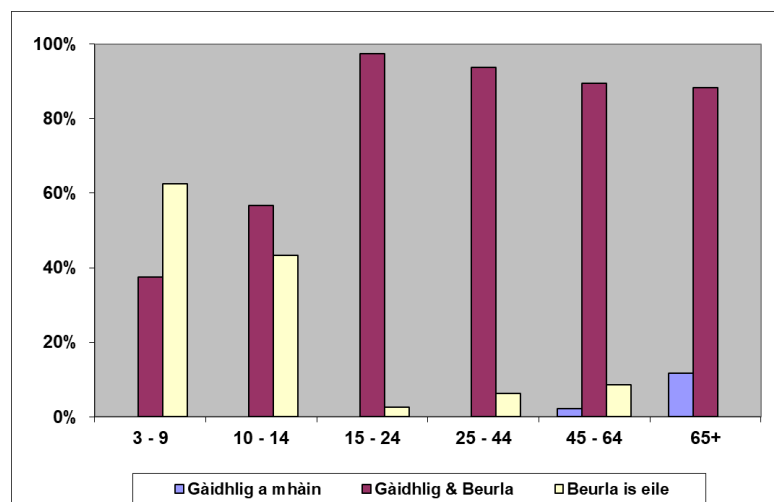
The area was still occupied by a strongly Gàidhlig-speaking community. Rather few were monolingual speakers who were all old age.

The anglicisation process was already ongoing via incoming "specialists" such as doctors, schoolmasters, and blacksmiths. In their families almost no Gàidhlig was spoken. Those born in the parish, however, still clung to their native tongue and did pass it over to their young.

Area description:

The region of interest lies in the centre of Scotland and as such at the crossroads between Lochaber, Badenoch, and the Perthshire Highlands.

Besides normal occupations in small farms or engaged by their wealthy landlords, many were working in the service of visitors and transporting goods.



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	316	17	0	13	286	5	225	80.4 %
3-4	11	0	0	0	11	0	3	27.3 %
5-9	38	0	0	1	37	0	15	40.5 %
10-14	38	0	0	1	37	0	21	56.8 %
15-24	42	0	0	2	40	0	39	97.5 %
25-44	83	0	0	3	80	0	75	93.8 %
45-64	50	0	0	3	47	1	42	91.5 %
65+	37	0	0	3	34	4	30	100.0 %
Gender								
Female	172	10	0	7	155	5	114	76.8 %
Male	144	7	0	6	131	0	111	84.7 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	199	15	0	2	182	3	146	81.9 %
In neighbouring parish¹	38	0	0	2	36	0	34	94.4 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	44	0	0	3	41	2	32	82.9 %
Other places	35	2	0	6	27	0	13	48.1 %

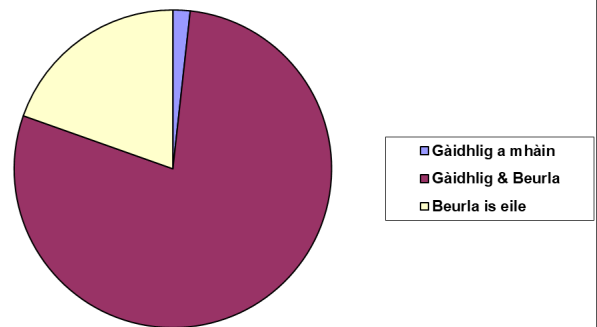
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Kilmonivaig, Kingussie & Insh and Boleskine & Abertarff (all Inverness-shire) or Fortingall and Blair Atholl (both 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 & 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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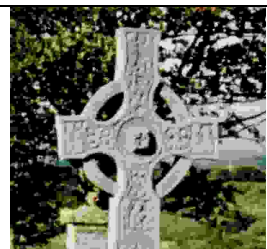
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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Lagan: Baile a'Ghobhainn</i>	71	286	5	225	80.4 %
Individual communities					
<i>An Gasg Mòr & An Gasg Beag (Gaskmore & Gaskbeg)</i>	6	29	0	15	51.7 %
<i>Baile a'Ghobhainn (Balgown)</i>	21	83	0	63	75.9 %
<i>Cluainidh (Cluny)</i>	8	42	0	35	83.3 %
<i>An t-Achadh Mòr & A'Chreag Dhubh (Achmore & Craighdu)</i>	4	19	1	13	73.7%
<i>Lagan (Laggan)</i>	15	56	2	44	82.1 %
<i>Craichidh (Crathy)</i>	17	57	2	55	100.0 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	18	108	0	89	82.4 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	10	43	2	30	74.4 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	4	22	0	9	40.9 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	2	15	0	2	13.3 %
Households with no children (0-14)	37	98	3	95	100.0 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	19	95	0	91	95.8 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	3	8	0	8	100.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	7	31	0	17	54.8 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	9	46	0	27	58.7 %
Living on private means	9	24	2	22	100.0 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	5	23	2	16	78.3 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	14	50	1	35	72.0 %
Remaining occupations	5	9	0	9	100.0 %

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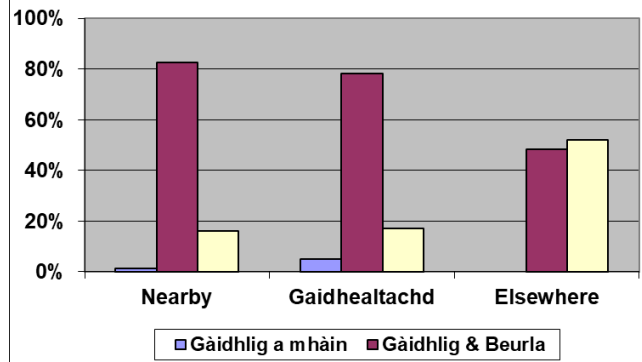
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was used widespread among residents and visitors from the Highlands. Newcomers, on the other hand, were already mainly English monoglots.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Laggan or in the adjacent parishes of Kingussie & Insh, Kilmonivaig, Boleskine & Abertarff (all Inverness-shire) or Fortingall and Blair Atholl (both 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 231 bilingual inhabitants and 6 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 316 persons (75.0 %). The usually resident population, however, consisted of 230 Gàidhlig-speakers (80.4 %) including 5 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. The overwhelming majority of the 56 non-Gàidhlig speakers lived in households of local “notables” such as the shopkeeper, doctor, shoemaker, blacksmith, piper, and schoolmaster!!! Even if one or both household-heads still could speak Gàidhlig, their offspring did not.