

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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**Area: Baideanach (Badenoch): Ceann Loch Lagain, Obar Àrdair, Srath Mathaisidh, Gleann Sirridh, Meall Garbh**

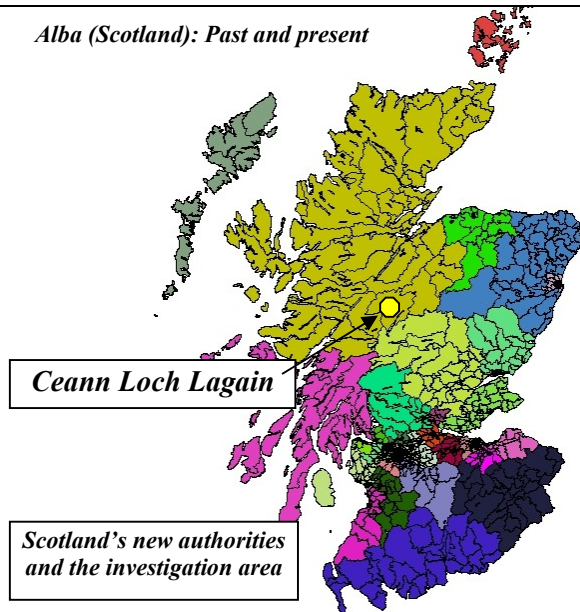
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Kinloch Laggan, Western Crathy, Garvabeg, Mealgarve, Shisgarnan, Skerrabeg, Skerramore, Glenshero Lodge, Coil-en-lion, Kinloch, Garvamore, Ault-Chaoran, Blackwood, Dalchully House, Inverpattack Lodge, Laggan Farm & Lodge, Aberarder, Moy, Strathmashie)

**Number of households: 49      Population present at census night: 230**

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 88.3 %**

| County          | Civil parish | Registration district | Enumeration district number | Census form pages |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Inverness-shire | Laggan       | Laggan                | 3                           | 1 - 6             |
|                 |              |                       | 4                           | 1 - 7             |

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

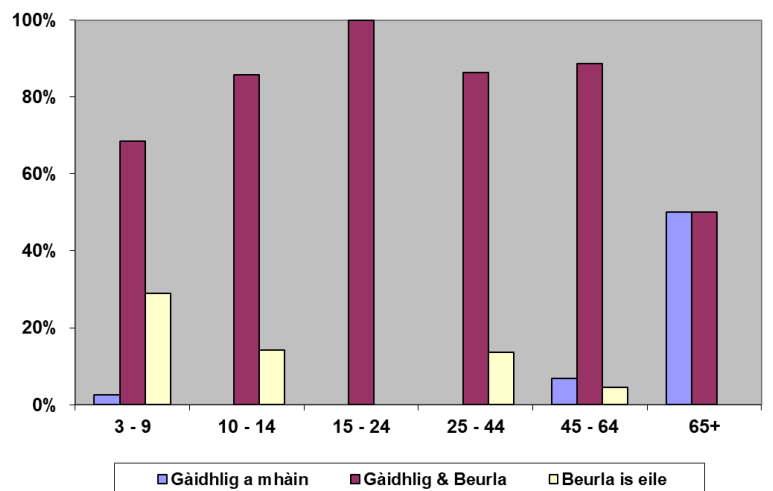
The local population in general was almost exclusively Gàidhlig-speaking. Mainly caused by the education policy of the time almost everyone did speak English, too.

On the other hand, some incomers did not learn the language. These were mostly engaged in businesses of their landlords such as gamekeeping, stock management, or even gardening in the mansions and lodges.

## Area description:

The region lies in central Scotland and did provide one of the few east-west road connections in the Highlands. This was of course open hill (even mountainous) country and accordingly used by the local landlords for their traditional pastimes: Residing in their lodges, engaging in game and fishing. Their servants were often incomers to work in gamekeeping, gardening, and stock management.

The locally born population remained almost totally separate from this “higher” society.



**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>230</b>            | <b>13</b> | <b>0</b>    | <b>11</b>                  | <b>206</b>                       | <b>10</b> | <b>172</b>         | <b>88.3 %</b>         |
| <b>3-4</b>                                 | <b>9</b>              | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>9</b>                         | <b>1</b>  | <b>5</b>           | <b>66.7 %</b>         |
| <b>5-9</b>                                 | <b>29</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>29</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>21</b>          | <b>72.4 %</b>         |
| <b>10-14</b>                               | <b>36</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>1</b>                   | <b>35</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>30</b>          | <b>85.7 %</b>         |
| <b>15-24</b>                               | <b>34</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>1</b>                   | <b>33</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>33</b>          | <b>100.0 %</b>        |
| <b>25-44</b>                               | <b>48</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>4</b>                   | <b>44</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>38</b>          | <b>86.4 %</b>         |
| <b>45-64</b>                               | <b>48</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>4</b>                   | <b>44</b>                        | <b>3</b>  | <b>39</b>          | <b>95.5 %</b>         |
| <b>65+</b>                                 | <b>13</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>1</b>                   | <b>12</b>                        | <b>6</b>  | <b>6</b>           | <b>100.0 %</b>        |
| <b>Gender</b>                              |                       |           |             |                            |                                  |           |                    |                       |
| <b>Female</b>                              | <b>111</b>            | <b>1</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>110</b>                       | <b>7</b>  | <b>94</b>          | <b>91.8 %</b>         |
| <b>Male</b>                                | <b>119</b>            | <b>12</b> | <b>0</b>    | <b>11</b>                  | <b>96</b>                        | <b>3</b>  | <b>78</b>          | <b>84.4 %</b>         |
| <b>Place of birth</b>                      |                       |           |             |                            |                                  |           |                    |                       |
| <b>Born in parish</b>                      | <b>137</b>            | <b>11</b> | <b>0</b>    | <b>1</b>                   | <b>125</b>                       | <b>10</b> | <b>104</b>         | <b>91.2 %</b>         |
| <b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>  | <b>37</b>             | <b>1</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>3</b>                   | <b>33</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>30</b>          | <b>90.9 %</b>         |
| <b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b> | <b>35</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>3</b>                   | <b>32</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>30</b>          | <b>93.8 %</b>         |
| <b>Other places</b>                        | <b>21</b>             | <b>1</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>4</b>                   | <b>16</b>                        | <b>0</b>  | <b>8</b>           | <b>50.0 %</b>         |

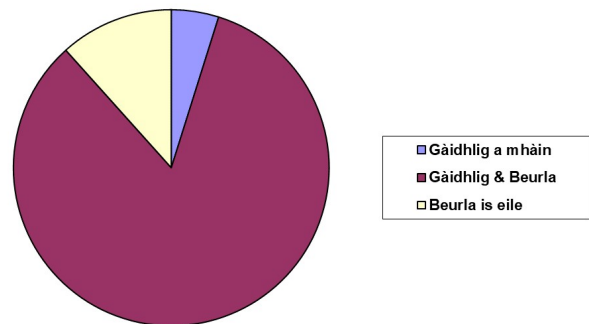
**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Kilmonivaig, Boleskine & Abertarff, Kingussie & Insh, Moy & Dalarossie (all Inverness-shire), Fortingall or Blair Atholl (both Perthshire).

<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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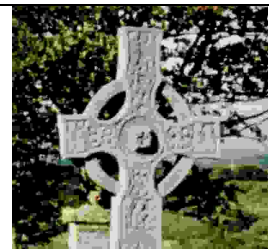
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|   | House-holds | Usually resident population (3+) |          |                    |                       |
|---|-------------|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
|   |             | Total                            | Gàidhlig | Gàidhlig & English | Gàidhlig speakers (%) |
| <i>Baideanach: Ceann Loch Lagain</i>                                    | 49          | 206                              | 10       | 172                | 88.3 %                |
| <b>Individual communities</b>   |             |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <i>Meall Garbh &amp; Gleann Sirridh</i><br>(Melgarve & Glen Shirrie)    | 20          | 75                               | 9        | 59                 | 90.7 %                |
| <i>Obar Àrdair &amp; Srath Mathaisidh</i><br>(Aberarder & Strathmashie) | 29          | 131                              | 1        | 113                | 87.0 %                |
|   |             |                                  |          |                    |                       |
|   |             |                                  |          |                    |                       |
|   |             |                                  |          |                    |                       |
|   |             |                                  |          |                    |                       |
|   |             |                                  |          |                    |                       |
|   |             |                                  |          |                    |                       |
|   |             |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <b>Language of parents</b>  |             |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>                                   | 17          | 110                              | 3        | 97                 | 90.9 %                |
| <b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>                                  | 6           | 30                               | 0        | 28                 | 93.3 %                |
| <b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>                                     | 3           | 14                               | 0        | 5                  | 35.7 %                |
| <b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>                                      | 1           | 2                                | 0        | 0                  | 0.0 %                 |
| <b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>                               | 22          | 50                               | 7        | 42                 | 98.0 %                |
|   |             |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <b>Occupation of head of household</b>                                  |             |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>                                 | 8           | 0                                | 3        | 31                 | 97.1 %                |
| <b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>                                  | 15          | 0                                | 2        | 69                 | 86.6 %                |
| <b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>                              | 4           | 0                                | 1        | 6                  | 77.6 %                |
| <b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>                                 | 2           | 0                                | 0        | 10                 | 100.0 %               |
| <b>Living on private means</b>  | 1           | 0                                | 0        | 2                  | 100.0 %               |
| <b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>                                    | 4           | 0                                | 1        | 10                 | 61.1 %                |
| <b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>                              | 13          | 0                                | 2        | 39                 | 93.2 %                |
| <b>Remaining occupations</b>  | 2           | 0                                | 1        | 5                  | 100.0 %               |

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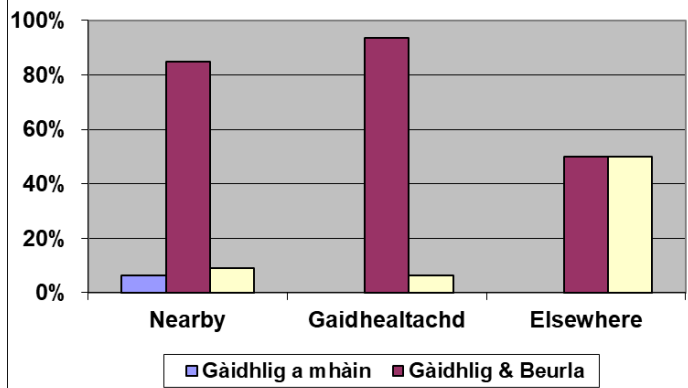
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The Gàidhlig language was spoken widely by both locally born residents and incomers from the wider *Gaidhealtachd*. Those born elsewhere were less able to speak the local tongue.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Laggan or in the adjacent parishes of Kilmonivaig, Boleskine & Abertarff, Kingussie & Insh, Moy & Dalarossie (all Inverness-shire), Fortingall or Blair Atholl (both Perthshire).

<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 183 bilingual inhabitants and 11 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 230 persons (84.3 %). The usually resident population of 206 people, however, consisted of some 182 Gàidhlig-speakers (88.3 %) including 10 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. The monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers were all (but one) older than 44 years of age. The exception was one child who had not started school.
3. Just 24 inhabitants did not speak Gàidhlig. The largest number of those people (in fact 19 monolingual persons) came from the families of three gamekeepers, one gardener, and one stock manager. These formed some sort of society apart.