

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 182

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Area: *Baideanach (Badenoch): Glenn Truim, Loch Eireachd, Beinn Àldair, Dail Chuinnidh*

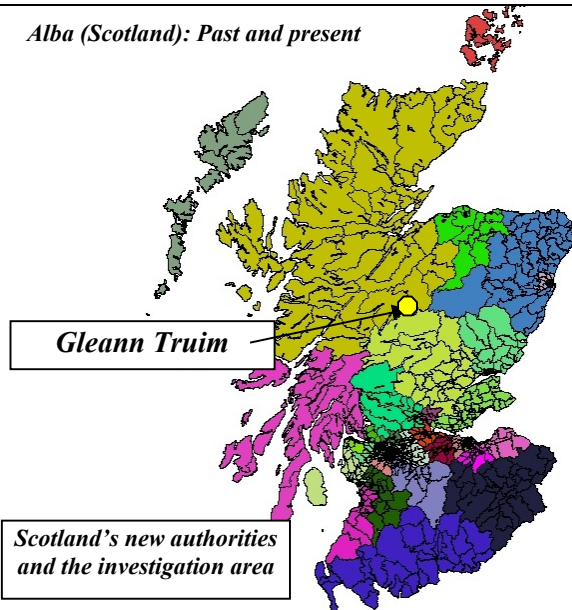
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Gallovie, Loch Ericht, Benalder, Kinloch, Drumgask, Lagg Farm, Middleton, Catlodge, Breakachy, Shanval, Glentruim, Grubenbeg, Grubenmore, Dalwhinniebeg, Drumochter)

**Number of households: 62      Population present at census night: 304**

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 82.9 %**

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Inverness-shire</i>	<i>Laggan</i>	Laggan	5	1 – 3
			6	1 – 7
			7	1 – 5

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

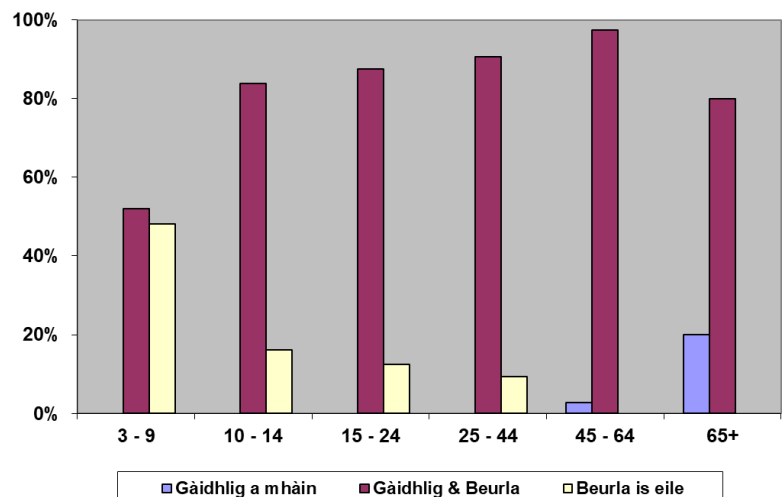
Gàidhlig was almost universally spoken by the local population. In 1891 there were only a few monolingual people left, however.

In the younger age groups – in contrast – the language was less common. The English-only education policy of officialdom had its effect since its inception in the 1870s.

## Area description:

Almost in the centre of Scotland this Highland district has the distinction of boasting the highest whisky distillery in the country: *Dail Chuinnidh* (Dalwhinnie). It lies right beside the pass of *Druim Uachdar* (Drumochter) over which an important road and railway line runs between *Peairt* (Perth) and *Inbhirnis* (Inverness).

Essentially a mountainous country this was sparsely populated at the time of the census. Main occupations were related to sheep raising, fishing, or running shooting estates.



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>304</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>82.7 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22.2 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>58.1 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>83.8 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>87.5 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>90.4 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>81.1 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>84.6 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>83.2 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>49</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>86.4 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>94.0 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>56.7 %</b>

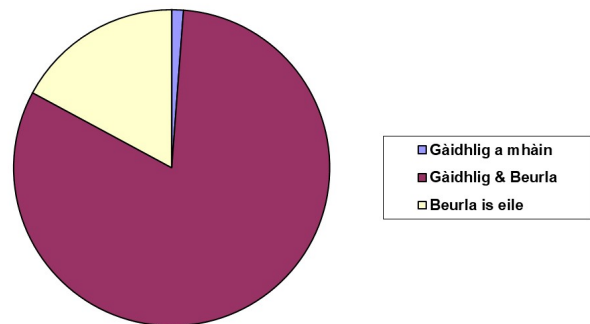
## Notes:

<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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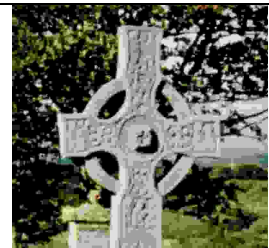
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Gleann Truim &amp; Dail Chuinnidh</i>	62	249	3	203	82.7 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Loch Eireachd &amp; Beinn Àldair</i> (Loch Ericht Ben Alder)	12	45	0	34	75.6 %
<i>Caitleag &amp; Breacachaidh</i> (Catlodge & Breakachy)	27	114	3	93	84.2 %
<i>Gleann Truim &amp; Dail Chuinnidh</i> (Glen Truim & Dalwhinnie)	23	90	0	76	84.4 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	24	135	0	117	86.7 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	10	34	1	28	85.3 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	6	0	2	33.3 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	2	18	0	6	33.3 %
Households with no children (0-14)	25	56	2	50	92.9 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	7	47	0	37	078.7 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	17	64	2	58	93.8 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	2	9	0	2	22.2 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	5	23	0	15	65.2 %
Living on private means	2	3	0	3	100.0 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	2	10	0	10	100.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	25	89	0	75	84.3 %
Remaining occupations	2	4	1	3	100.0 %

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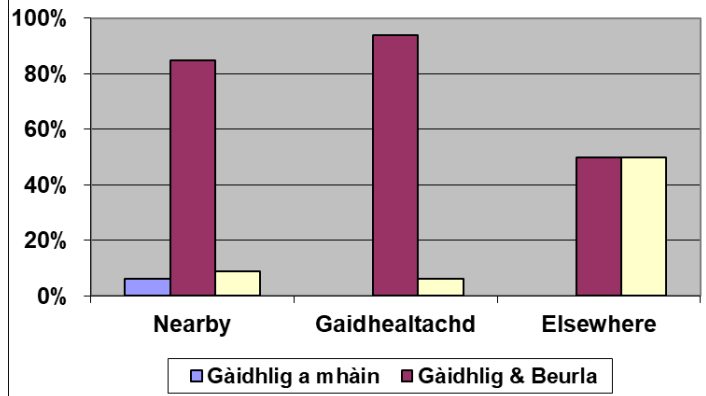
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was almost universally spoken by people born locally or originating from the wider *Gaidhealtachd*. Just half of the people born elsewhere did speak Gàidhlig.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Laggan or in the adjacent parishes of 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 226 bilingual inhabitants and three monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 306 persons (74.8 %). The usually resident population of just 249 persons, however, consisted of 206 Gàidhlig-speakers (82.7 %) including three inhabitants “with no English”.
2. The remarkable difference between the census population and the “usually resident population” used here is caused by omitting the presence of 28 temporary workers.