

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 184

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Area: *Suaineard (Sunart): Àiridh Fhionndail & A'Mhèinn*

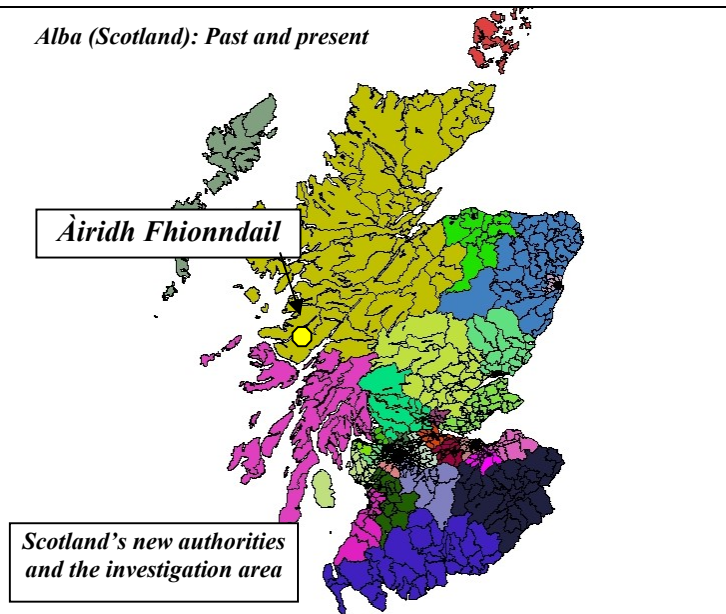
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Ariundle, Ceannachreggan, Scotstown)

Number of households: **52** Population present at census night: **194**

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking *Gàidhlig*: **94.1 %**

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Argyll</i>	<i>Ardnamurchan</i>	Sunart	3	1 – 11

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



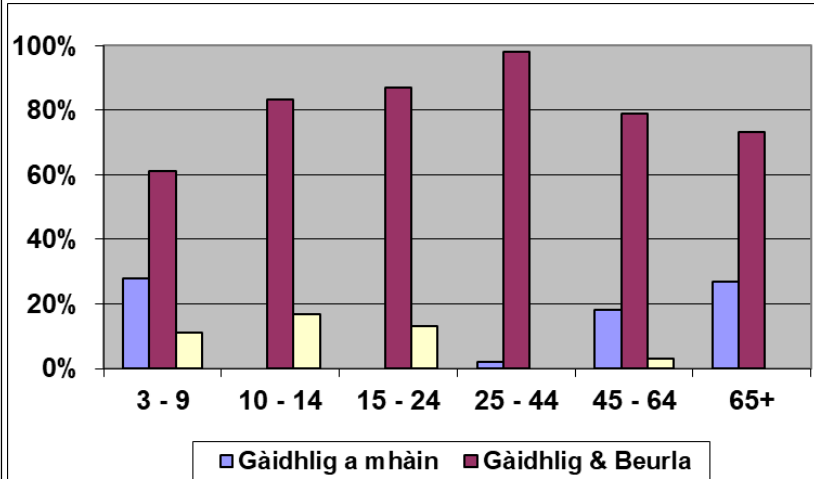
State of *Gàidhlig* in 1891:

This community was almost entirely *Gàidhlig*-speaking at the turn of the century. However, monolingualism was confined to both very young and older people.

Area description:

The district lies in the eastern part of the parish of *Àird nam Murchan* (Ardnamurchan) in the northernmost mainland portion of the old county of *Earra-Ghaidheal* (Argyll). It comprised the crofting community of *Airidh Fhionndail* (Ariundle) and the works at *A'Mhèinn* (Scotstown).

Major employers at the time were the famous lead mines. The other main occupation in the area was crofting besides some work as shepherds, gamekeepers, or servants for the local estates.



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

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Area: *Suaineard (Sunart): Àiridh Fhionndail & A'Mhèinn*

	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. ³	Total ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	194	19	0	0	185	24	150	94.1 %
3-4	11	0	0	0	11	6	2	72.7 %
5-9	25	0	0	0	25	4	20	96.0 %
10-14	18	0	0	0	18	0	15	83.3 %
15-24	23	0	0	0	23	0	20	87.0 %
25-44	49	0	0	0	49	1	48	100.0 %
45-64	33	0	0	0	33	6	26	97.0 %
65+	26	0	0	0	26	7	19	100.0 %
Gender								
Female	101	2	0	0	99	12	81	93.9 %
Male	93	7	0	0	86	12	69	94.2 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	146	7	0	0	139	20	115	97.1 %
In neighbouring parish¹	18	0	0	0	18	3	13	88.9 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	11	0	0	0	11	1	10	100.0 %
Other places	19	2	0	0	7	0	12	70.6 %

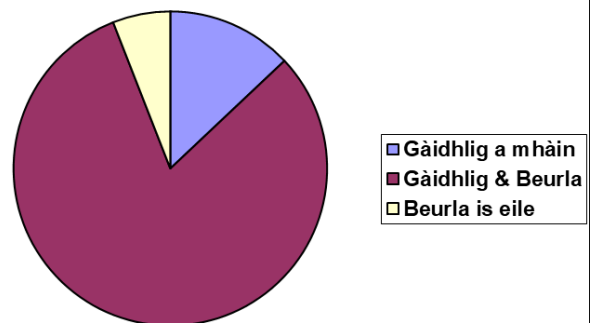
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Ardgour, Morvern (both Argyll); Arisaig & Moidart, Kilmallie (all Inverness).

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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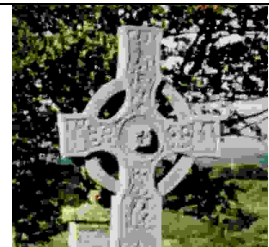
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Area: *Suaineard (Sunart): Àiridh Fhionndail & A'Mhèinn*

	House -holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Àiridh Fhionndail & A'Mhèinn</i>	52	185	24	150	94.1 %
Individual communities					
<i>Àirigh Fhionndail & Ceann a'Chreagain</i> (Ariundle & Ceannachraggan)	4	23	1	17	78.3 %
<i>A'Mhèinn</i> (Scotstown)	48	162	23	133	96.3 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	12	69	8	55	91.3 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	9	34	6	28	100.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	31	82	10	67	93.9 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	19	68	14	50	94.1 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	6	32	2	24	81.3 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	3	0	3	100.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	8	28	3	24	96.4 %
Living on private means	1	3	0	3	100.0 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	1	2	1	1	100.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	16	49	4	45	100.0 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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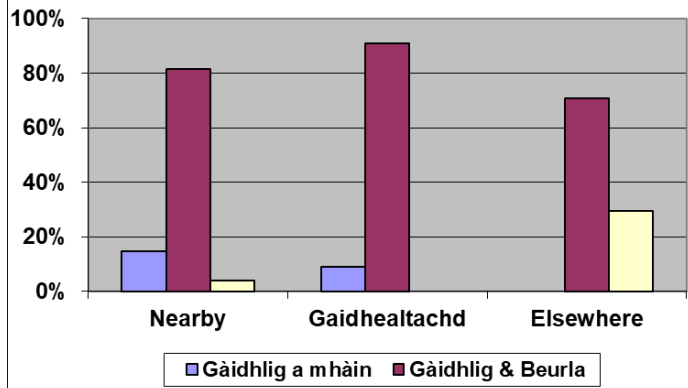
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was universally spoken except for a handful of incomers.

Notes:

¹ Born either in the parish of Ardnamurchan or in the adjacent parishes of Ardgour, Morvern (both Argyll); Arisaig & Moidart, Kilmallie (all Inverness).

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 150 bilingual inhabitants and 24 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 194 persons (89.7 %). The usually resident population of some 185 persons, however, consisted of 174 Gàidhlig-speakers (94.1 %) including 24 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. The eleven persons with no Gàidhlig speaking abilities included five entries from a shepherd’s family in *Ceann a’Chreagain* (Ceannachraggan). In addition, a crofter’s family in *A’Mhèinn* (Scotstown) was home to six grandchildren who had all been born in the Central Belt.