

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 189

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Area: Narann – Inbhirnis (Nairn – Inverness): Cantra, Gall Chantra, Clabhalag, Dail Tulaich & Baile Chaisteil

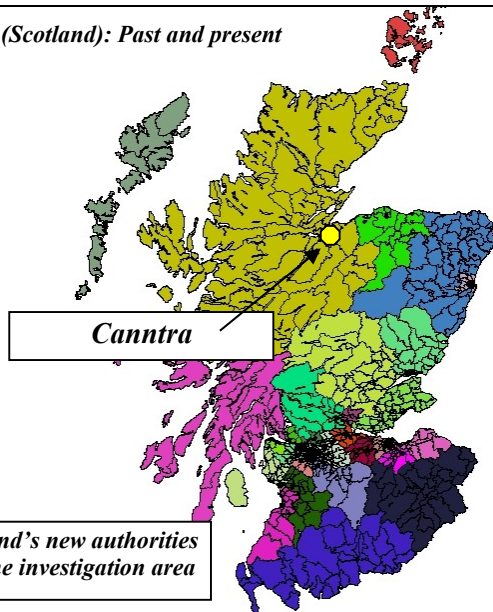
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Carnach, Assich, Newlands of Cantray, Newlands of Galcantray, Easter Galcantray, Wester Galcantray, Upper Balfrioch, Lower Balfrioch, Milton of Clava, Clava Schoolhouse, Culdrich, Easter Daltullich, Lower Daltullich, Castletown, Daltullich, Drumore of Cantray)

Number of households: 64 Population present at census night: 292

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 51.1 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Nairnshire</i>	<i>Croy</i>	Croy	5	1 – 7; 14 - 15
<i>Inverness-shire</i>	<i>Croy & Dalcross</i>		5	8 - 13

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

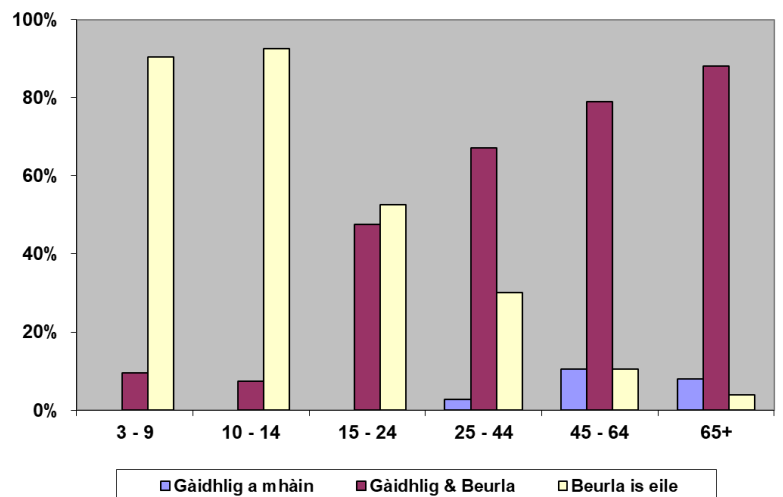
Although the language was less used by younger folk, it was still widely spoken in the population. Even the few monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers were born and bred in this region and not just migrants from other parts of the *Gaidhealtachd*.

Astonishingly the language was more widespread in the western part around *Baile a'Chaisteil* (Castletown) and *Clabhalag* (Clava) nearer to the city of *Inbhirnis* (Inverness) with over 60% of speakers.

Area description:

This rather fertile land is situated on the southern banks of the *Abhainn Narann* (River Nairn) right on the county border between *Narann* (Nairn) and *Inbhirnis* (Inverness).

People were mainly active in agriculture in some way or another.



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	292	23	0	3	266	8	128	51.1 %
3-4	23	0	0	0	23	0	2	8.7 %
5-9	40	0	0	0	40	0	4	10.0 %
10-14	28	0	0	1	27	0	2	7.4 %
15-24	41	0	0	1	40	0	19	47.5 %
25-44	73	0	0	0	73	2	49	69.9 %
45-64	38	0	0	0	38	4	30	89.5 %
65+	26	0	0	1	25	2	22	96.0 %
Gender								
Female	145	13	0	1	131	6	67	55.7 %
Male	147	10	0	2	135	2	61	46.7 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	135	21	0	0	114	4	50	47.4 %
In neighbouring parish¹	43	0	0	1	42	2	24	61.9 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	48	0	0	0	48	2	33	72.9 %
Other places	66	2	0	2	62	0	21	33.9 %

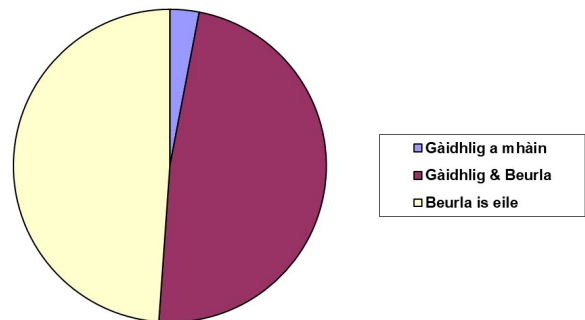
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Petty, Daviot & Dunlichity, Moy & Dalarossie (all Inverness-shire), or Cawdor (Nairnshire).

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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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Cantra & Clabhalag	64	266	8	128	51.1 %
Individual communities					
Gall Chantra & Cantra (Galcantray & Cantray)	32	131	1	50	38.9 %
Clabhalag & Baile a'Chaisteil (Clava & Castletown)	32	135	7	78	63.0 %
<i>Included in the above:</i>					
Siorrachd Nàrainn (Part of Nairnshire after 1891)	37	161	1	61	38.5 %
Siorrachd Inbhirnis (Part of Inverness-shire after 1891)	27	105	7	67	70.5 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	14	88	1	44	51.1 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	10	46	3	22	54.3 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	3	21	0	3	14.3 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	5	29	0	2	6.9 %
Households with no children (0-14)	32	82	4	57	74.4 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	15	83	3	37	48.2 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	5	15	0	8	53.3 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	3	0	0	0.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	16	60	4	33	61.7 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	1	5	0	2	40.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	26	100	1	48	49.0 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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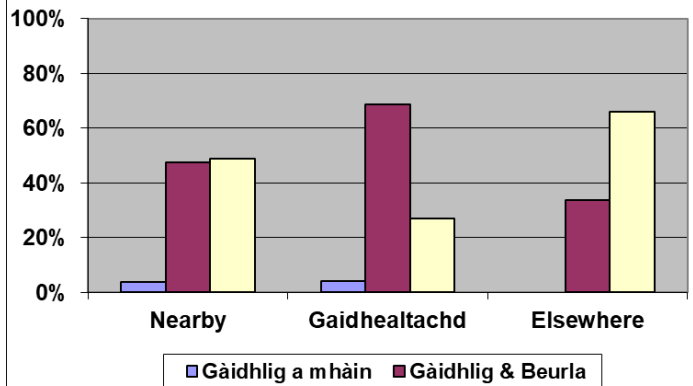
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken by half of the population born nearby and by most people born in the wider *Gaidhealtachd*.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Croy & Dalcross or in the adjacent parishes of Petty, Daviot & Dunlichity, Moy & Dalarossie (all Inverness-shire), or Cawdor (Nairnshire).

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 129 bilingual inhabitants and 8 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 292 persons (46.9%). The usually resident population of 266 persons, however, consisted of 136 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (51.1%) including eight inhabitants “with no English”.
2. The eight recorded monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers were mostly born nearby or even in the parish. This is a clear hint that the language had still a certain base among the local population.