

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: *Bràghad Albainn (Breadalbane): A'Chrìon-Làraich, A'Bheinn Mhòr, Loch Dochart, Inbhir Àrnain & Gleann Falach*

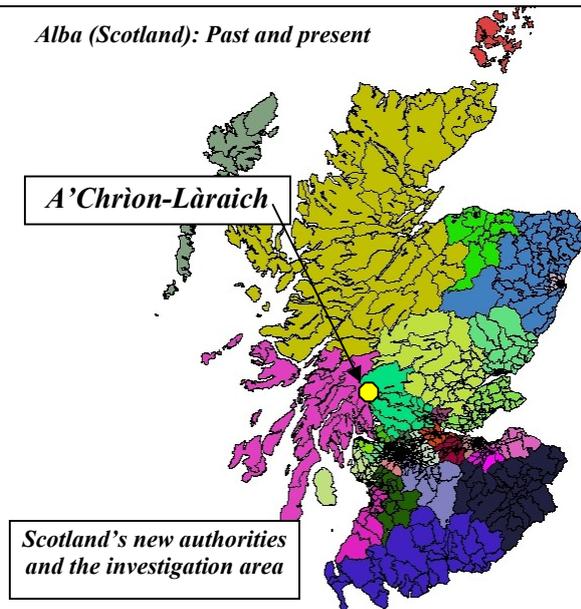
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Glenfalloch Road, Stuckchapel, Blackcroft, Benmore, Portnellan, Inverardran, Lochdochart Lodge, Crianlarich, Railway Huts, Kielator, Glenfalloch, Benglas)

Number of households: 68 **Population present at census night:** 721

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 61.7 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Perthshire	Killin	Strathfillan	2	1 – 30

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

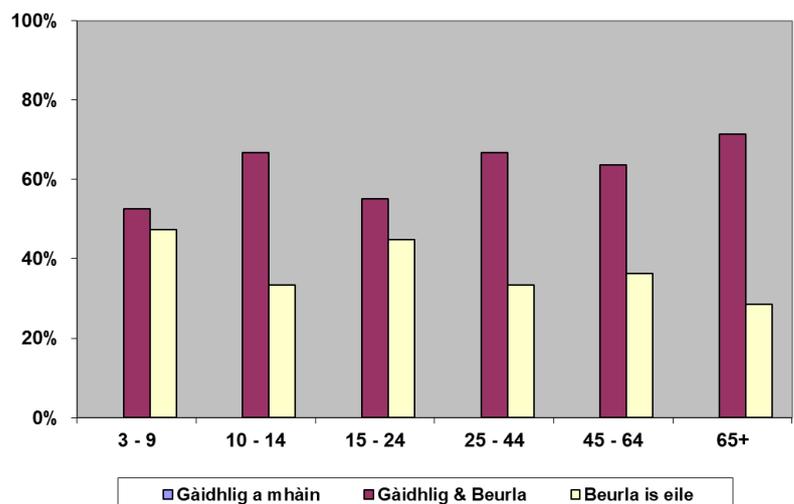
During the time of the census a large railway workforce was enumerated in this district which distorted the official census figures beyond recognition.

Looking at the usually resident population, however, the district emerged still as a strongly Gàidhlig-speaking area. Most of all age groups spoke Gàidhlig with a few monolingual speakers in the adult generations. Almost everyone born either locally or in the wider *Gaidhealtachd* spoke the traditional language. Those born further away of course were mostly ignorant of Gàidhlig whether they were teachers or wealthy landowners.

Area description:

The district known as *Na Sraithibh* (Strathfillan) occupies the north-western corner of the ancient county of *Peairt* (Perth). This factsheet considers the southern half of that area with tiny communities around *A'Chrìon-laraich* (Crianlarich) and *Inbhir Àrnain* (Inverarnan).

Previously remote and thinly populated, the area experienced a great disruption just around the census date when hundreds of railway workers and engineers were busily engaged in the erection of the West Highland Line.



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	721	24	0	569	128	0	79	61.7 %
3-4	15	0	0	7	8	0	3	37.5 %
5-9	30	0	0	19	11	0	7	63.6 %
10-14	33	0	0	21	12	0	8	66.7 %
15-24	146	0	0	117	29	0	16	55.2 %
25-44	274	0	0	235	39	0	26	66.7 %
45-64	190	0	0	168	22	0	14	63.6 %
65+	9	0	0	2	7	0	5	71.4 %
Gender								
Female	119	12	0	56	51	0	28	54.9 %
Male	602	12	0	513	77	0	51	66.2 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	54	10	0	16	28	0	21	75.0 %
In neighbouring parish¹	20	1	0	4	15	0	14	93.3 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	116	1	0	63	52	0	39	75.0 %
Other places	531	12	0	486	33	0	5	15.2 %

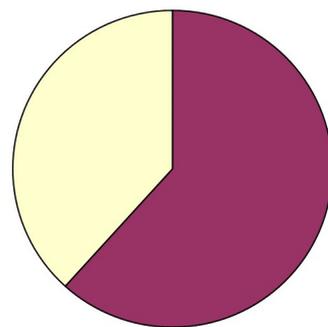
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Kenmore, Balquhider and Fortingall (all Perthshire), Glenorchy & Inishail, Inveraray (both Argyll), and Arrochar (Dumbartonshire).

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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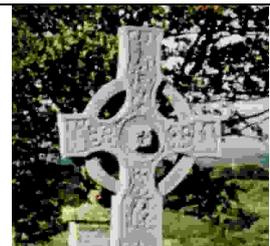
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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Taobh Deas na Sraithibh</i>	68	128	0	79	61.7 %
Individual communities					
<i>A'Bheinn Mhòr & Loch Dochart</i> (Benmore & Loch Dochart)	14	55	0	32	58.2 %
<i>A'Chrìon-Làraich</i> (Criannlarich)	22	37	0	24	64.9 %
<i>Inbhir Àrnain & Gleann Falach</i> (Inverarnan & Glenfalloch)	32	36	0	23	63.9 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	8	42	0	41	97.6 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	6	0	6	100.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	7	13	0	4	30.8 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	13	23	0	1	4.3 %
Households with no children (0-14)	39	44	0	27	61.4 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	6	39	0	28	71.8 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	4	17	0	11	64.7 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	4	9	0	7	77.8 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	11	30	0	15	50.0 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	2	7	0	1	14.3 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	41	26	0	17	65.4 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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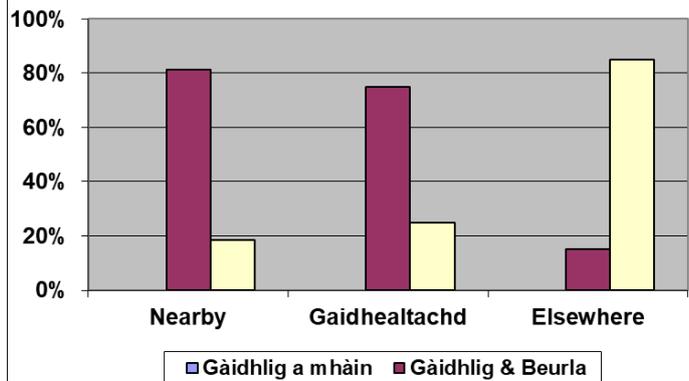
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Gàidhlig was overwhelmingly spoken by those born nearby. Most English monolingual speakers originated from outside the *Gaidhealtachd*.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Killin or in the adjacent parishes of Kenmore, Balquhidder and Fortingall (all Perthshire), Glenorchy & Inishail, Inveraray (both Argyll) and Arrochar (Dumbartonshire).

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 166 bilingual inhabitants and three monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 680 persons (24.9 %). The usually resident population of 128 inhabitants, however, consisted of 79 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (61.7%). No resident inhabitant “with no English” was returned.
2. These census results for this district were heavily biased by the presence of a large workforce during the building phase of the West Highland Line. In the statistics presented here returns of all persons living in railway huts were not considered to arrive at meaningful figures. 569 persons lived only temporarily in the area – among them three monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers (mainly from the Hebrides) and 87 bilingual members of the workforce. These persons appeared in official census reports and distorted the picture considerably. The official figure was a dramatic under-estimate of 36.8 %!!!