

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: *Narann (Nairn): Taobh na Mòine, Loch Dubh & Baile a' Bhlàir*

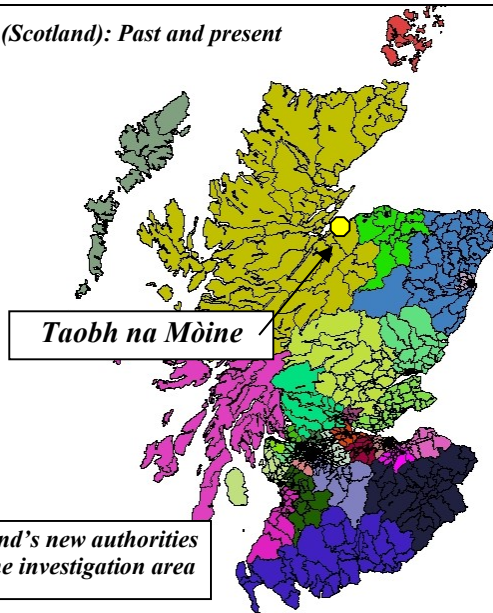
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Mosshall Road, Moss Side, Moss-side Road, Lochdhu, Balblair, Little Balblair, Lodgehill, Nairn Union Poorhouse, Broadley, Firhall, Redhall, Ruallan, Horsehill, Crook)

Number of households: 72 Population present at census night: 387

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 31.5 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Nairnshire</i>	<i>Nairn</i>	Nairn	12	1 – 19

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

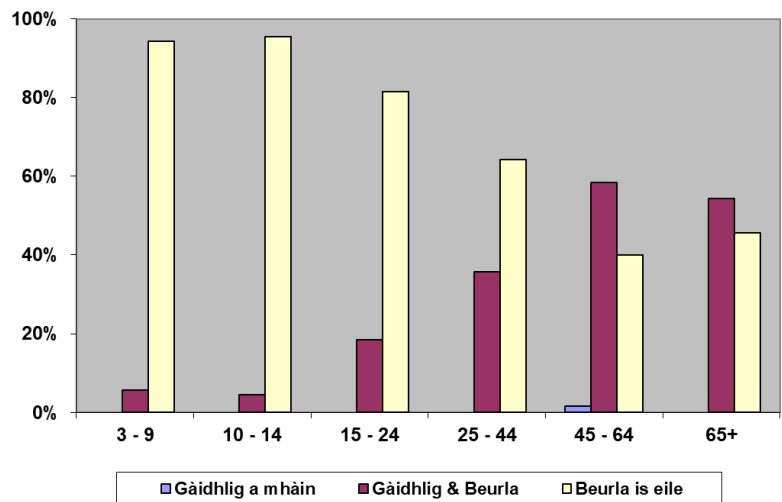
Most older people still spoke Gàidhlig in the area, but the younger generation did not know the language at all (see figure below).

There was a startling difference between the presence of Gàidhlig in individual communities. Whereas in the wealthier society of *Baile a' Bhlàir* (Balblair) and *Loch Dubh* (Lochdhu) only one in six spoke the language, more than half of residents in *Taobh na Mòine* (Moss-side) recorded themselves as Gàidhlig-speakers.

Area description:

The communities in question lived on the southern edge of the county town of *Inbhir Narann* (Nairn). This was a rather diverse neighbourhood with the more working-class type of settlement of *Taobh na Mòine* (Moss-side) and nearby more affluent villas and farms around *Loch Dubh* (Lochdhu).

The main occupations of the inhabitants differed accordingly from household servants and farm labourers to farmers and people “living on private means”.



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	387	35	0	9	343	1	107	31.5 %
3-4	15	0	0	1	14	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	39	0	0	0	39	0	3	7.7 %
10-14	44	0	0	0	44	0	2	4.5 %
15-24	56	0	0	2	54	0	10	18.5 %
25-44	82	0	0	1	81	0	29	35.8 %
45-64	68	0	0	3	65	1	38	60.0 %
65+	48	0	0	2	46	0	25	54.3 %
Gender								
Female	200	15	0	2	183	0	51	28.4 %
Male	187	20	0	7	160	0	56	35.0 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	156	27	0	2	127	0	20	15.7 %
In neighbouring parish¹	56	1	0	0	55	0	24	43.6 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	76	2	0	4	70	1	54	78.6 %
Other places	99	5	0	3	91	0	9	9.9 %

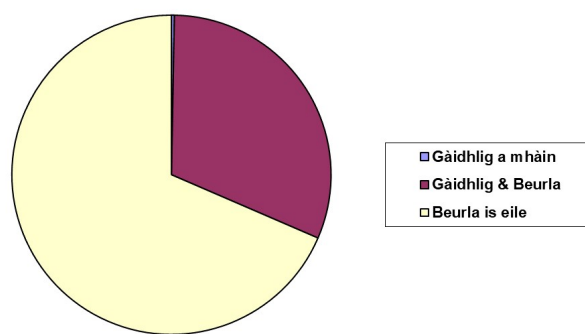
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Auldearn, Ardclach, Cawdor, Croy (all Nairnshire), Ardersier, Petty, Croy & Dalcross (all Inverness-shire).

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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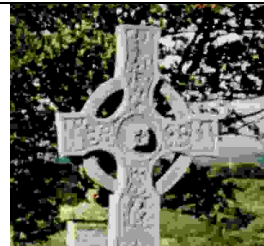
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Area: *Narann (Nairn): Taobh na Mòine, Loch Dubh & Baile a'Bhlàir*

	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Taobh na Mòine & Baile a'Bhlàir</i>	72	343	1	107	31.5 %
Individual communities					
<i>Taobh na Mòine</i> (Moss-side)	27	114	1	59	52.6 %
<i>Taigh nam Bochd</i> (Poorhouse)	3	49	0	18	36.7 %
<i>Baile a'Bhlàir & Loch Dubh</i> (Balblair & Lochdhu)	42	180	0	30	16.7 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	15	83	0	38	45.8 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	2	5	0	2	40.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	9	60	0	11	18.3 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	18	76	0	0	0.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	28	119	1	56	47.9 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	4	27	0	8	29.6 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	5	6	0	4	66.7 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	10	0	1	10.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	13	65	0	20	30.8 %
Living on private means	3	21	0	1	4.8 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	6	28	0	6	21.4 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	33	126	0	44	34.9 %
Remaining occupations	7	60	1	23	40.0 %

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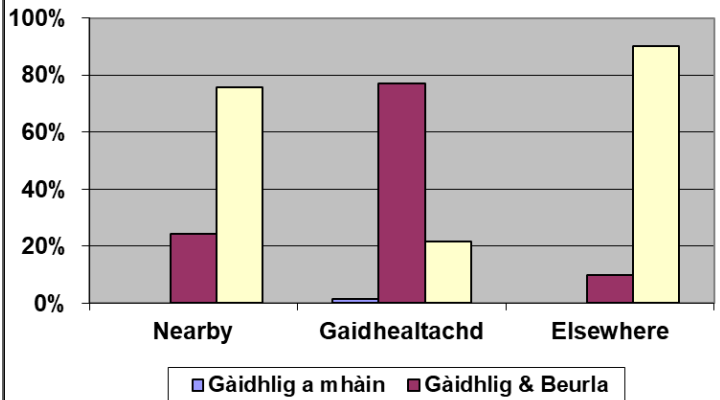
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken both by locally born inhabitants and by migrants from the wider *Gaidhealtachd*.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Nairn or in the adjacent parishes of Auldearn, Ardclach, Cawdor, Croy (all Nairnshire), Ardersier, Petty, Croy & Dalcross (all Inverness-shire).

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 112 bilingual inhabitants and one monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speaker out of a total population of 387 persons (29.2%). The usually resident population of 343 persons, however, consisted of 108 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (31.5%) including one inhabitant “with no English”.
2. The sole monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speaker found was a 64-year-old “outworker on farm” in *Taobh na Mòine* (Moss-side). She originally came from *Poll Iù* (Poolewe) on the West Coast.