

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: Narann (Nairn): Gleann Fheàrnais, Dail na h-Eaglaise, An Druim Mòr, Dùn Èire, Feàrnais, An Lainn & An Lurg

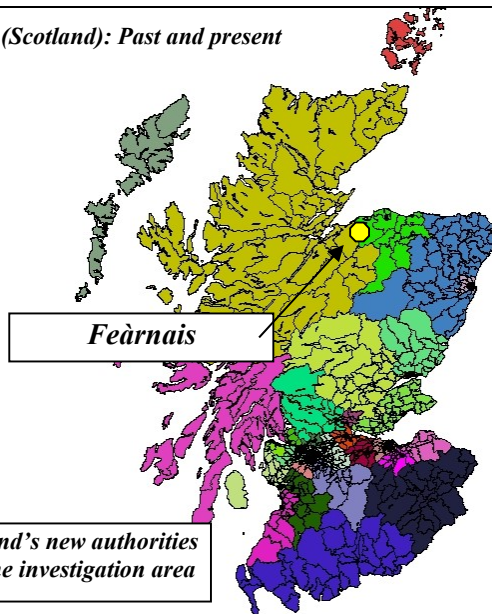
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Glenferness Cottage, Dalnaheglis, Drumore, Ferness Mains, Glenferness Lodge, Glenferness House, Ballindore House, Drumloch, Burnside, Reropie, Dunearn Lodge, Dunearn, Collindrum, Lynemore, Glenferness Village, Tomnarrach, Aitnoch, Ballinriach, Little Lyne, Meikle Lyne, Mount of Airdrie, Wester Logie, Logie, Airdrie, Score, Glenairnie, Lurg, Craigroy, Wester Glenairnie, Woodside)

Number of households: 64 Population present at census night: 328

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 15.7 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Nairnshire</i>	<i>Ardclach</i>	Ardclach	1 2	1 - 7 1 - 8

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

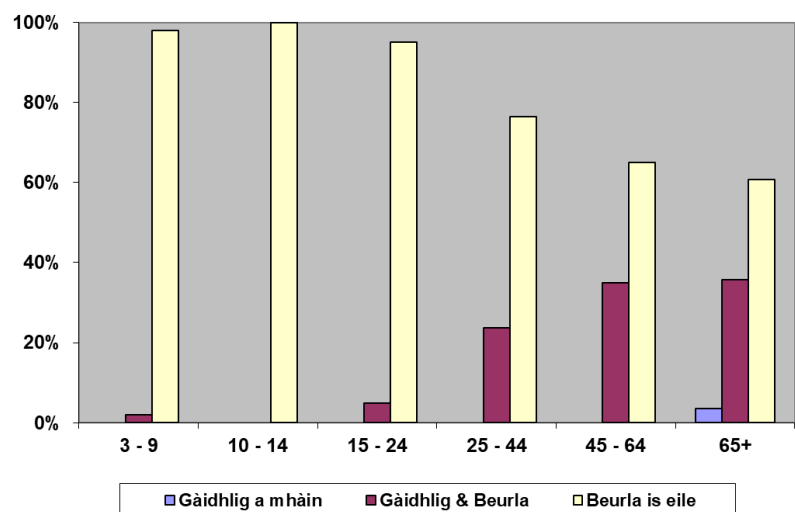
The language was prominent only in age groups beyond 25 years. But there were still speakers who were and bred in this parish. Accordingly, the area was historically part of the *Gaidhealtachd*.

A very striking picture provided a look at the two parts of this district. Whereas in the more southerly *Gleann Fheàrnais* (Glen Ferness) Gàidhlig was still relatively strong, the village itself and its neighbourhood showed almost no returns of speakers. This points to the fact that a certain language frontier did run straight west to east through the district.

Area description:

The area under investigation lies on the eastern slopes of a wooded glen eroded by the fast-flowing *Fionn Èireann* (Findhorn) in *Siorrachd Narainn* (Nairnshire). The tiny village of *Feàrnais* (Ferness) was the only remarkable settlement, in which a few farms and some exclusive lodges lay hidden in the woods.

Main occupation of the local population was working for the local lairds in some form or another. In addition some farming and forestry activities were present.



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	328	25	0	10	293	1	45	15.7 %
3-4	11	0	0	0	11	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	40	0	0	1	39	0	1	2.6 %
10-14	44	0	0	2	42	0	0	0.0 %
15-24	63	0	0	2	61	0	3	4.9 %
25-44	74	0	0	2	72	0	17	23.6 %
45-64	42	0	0	2	40	0	14	35.0 %
65+	29	0	0	1	28	1	10	39.3 %
Gender								
Female	154	14	0	3	137	1	20	15.3 %
Male	174	11	0	7	156	0	25	16.0 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	161	22	0	2	137	0	15	10.9 %
In neighbouring parish¹	59	2	0	2	55	0	1	1.8 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	43	0	0	3	40	1	26	67.5 %
Other places	65	1	0	3	61	0	3	4.9 %

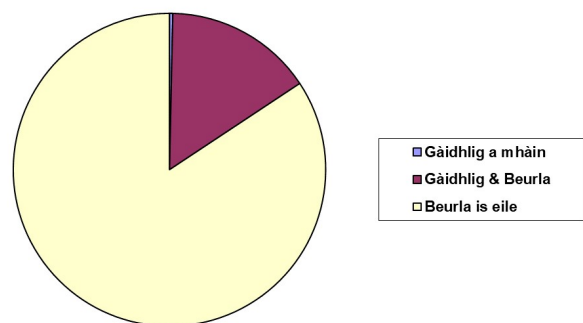
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Cawdor, Nairn, Auldearn (all Nairn), Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie (Moray), Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie, Moy & Dalarossie (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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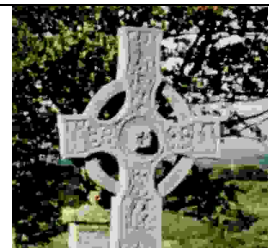
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Gleann Fheàrnais</i>	64	293	1	45	15.7 %
Individual communities					
<i>Gleann Fheàrnais & Dùn Èire</i> (Glenferness & Dunearn)	30	138	1	35	26.1 %
<i>Feàrnais & An Lurg</i> (Ferness Village & Lurg)	34	155	0	10	6.5 %
<i>Included in the above:</i>					
<i>Siorrachd Nàrainn</i> (Part of Nairnshire after 1891)	53	248	1	43	17.7 %
<i>Siorrachd Mhoireibh</i> (Part of Morayshire after 1891)	11	45	0	2	4.4 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	9	49	0	20	40.8 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	2	6	0	2	33.3 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	6	38	0	7	18.4 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	20	125	0	1	0.8 %
Households with no children (0-14)	27	75	1	15	21.3 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	24	126	0	10	7.9 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	10	50	0	12	24.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	4	11	0	2	18.2 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	6	23	0	0	0.0 %
Living on private means	1	2	0	1	50.0 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	2	4	0	2	50.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	16	76	0	18	23.7 %
Remaining occupations	1	1	1	0	100.0 %

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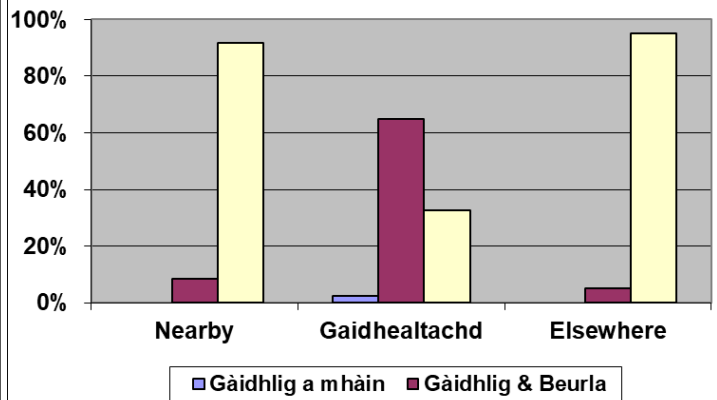
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was mainly spoken by incomers from the wider *Gaidhealtachd*. But around a third of the people who spoke the traditional tongue were born locally or nearby.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Ardelach or in the adjacent parishes of Cawdor, Nairn, Auldearn (all Nairn), Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie (Moray), Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie, Moy & Dalarossie (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 48 bilingual inhabitants and one monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speaker out of a total population of 329 persons (14.9%). The usually resident population of 293 inhabitants, however, consisted of 46 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (15.7%) including one inhabitant “with no English”.
2. The single monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speaker was 64 years old. She was an annuitant, lived alone and came originally from *Baideanach* (Badenoch).
3. Two small portions of this enumeration district were in fact detached parts of land in neighbouring *Moireabh* (Moray). Both “exclaves” were consequently transferred to that county after 1891. In total 45 residents were involved with just two *Gàidhlig*-speakers (4.4%).