

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 196

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Area: *Narann (Nairn): Cùl Monaidh, An Carn Glas, Flionais Mòr, Fornighty, An t-Achadh Mòr & Flionais Meadhonach*

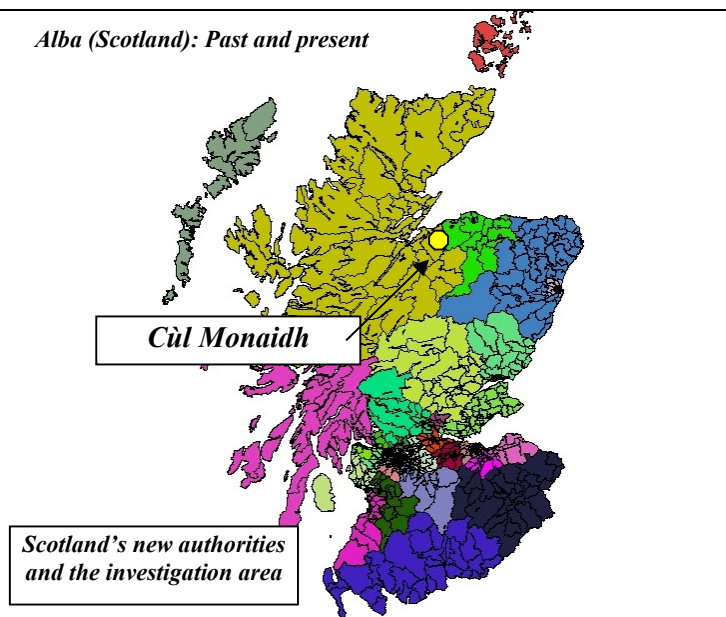
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Rehaurie, Schoolhouse, Achnatone, Fleenas More, Shenvall, Keppernach, Achavrate, Blackmill, New Achamore, Hill of Ord, Achamore, Mid Fleenas, Littlemill, Tomshogle, Slagachorrie, New Fleenas, Druim, Achavelgin, Hillhead, Fleenas Mill, Fleenas na Gael, Fornighty, Coulmony, Daltulich, Greystone, Potgreenie, Craigiemore, Tomnagee, Braevail, Lethen Mill, Remore, Belivat, Cairnglass)

Number of households: 75 **Population present at census night:** 377

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 19.9 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Nairnshire</i>	<i>Ardclach</i>	Ardclach	5 6	1 – 11 1 - 8

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

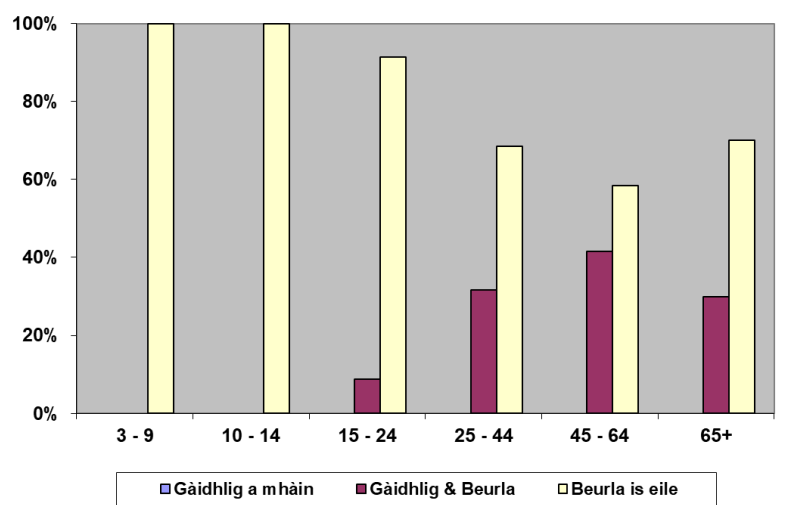
The language obviously had been in retreat in this area since some decades before 1891. Although about a third of the adult population still spoke Gàidhlig, there were no children brought up in the traditional language at the time.

Even though many speakers came originally from stronger *Gaidhealtachd* districts there were still speakers recorded who were born and bred in this parish. In the more westerly area of *Flionais Mòr* (Fleenas More) the language was relatively widespread. In the neighbourhood of the lodge of *Cùl Monaidh* (Coulmony), however, Gàidhlig was in a much weaker state.

Area description:

The area under investigation lies in the hilly country between *An t-Allt Mòr* (Muckle Burn) in the west and the fast-flowing *Fionn Èireann* (Findhorn) in central *Siorrachd Narainn* (Nairnshire). A few scattered farms lay in this wooded land where also a handful of mansions or lodges were occupied by aristocratic or monetary lairds of the time.

The local population was dependant on these 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	377	24	0	11	342	0	68	19.9 %
3-4	9	0	0	0	9	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	29	0	0	0	29	0	0	0.0 %
10-14	42	0	0	1	41	0	0	0.0 %
15-24	97	0	0	5	92	0	8	8.7 %
25-44	78	0	0	2	76	0	24	31.6 %
45-64	68	0	0	3	65	0	27	41.5 %
65+	30	0	0	0	30	0	9	30.0 %
Gender								
Female	185	11	0	3	171	0	35	20.5 %
Male	192	13	0	8	171	0	33	19.3 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	165	16	0	3	146	0	11	7.5 %
In neighbouring parish¹	80	3	0	1	76	0	13	17.1 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	83	4	0	5	74	0	38	51.4 %
Other places	49	1	0	2	46	0	6	13.0 %

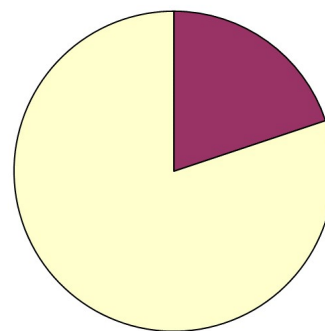
Notes:

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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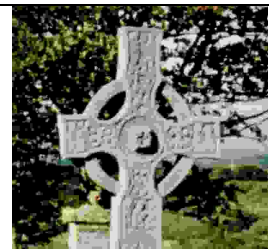
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Area: *Narann (Nairn): Cùl Monaidh, An Carn Glas, Flionais Mòr, Fornighty, An t-Achadh Mòr & Flionais Meadhonach*

	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Cùl Monaidh & Flionais Mòr</i>	75	342	0	68	19.9 %
Individual communities					
<i>Flionais Mòr & Fornighty</i> (Fleenas More & Fornighty)	47	182	0	47	25.8 %
<i>Cùl Monaidh & An Carn Glas</i> (Coulmony & Cairnglass)	28	160	0	21	13.1 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	10	60	0	25	41.7 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	3	10	0	6	60.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	7	31	0	7	22.6 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	19	110	0	2	1.8 %
Households with no children (0-14)	36	131	0	28	21.4 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	35	198	0	29	14.6 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	4	22	0	3	13.6 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	8	0	1	12.5 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	9	27	0	10	37.0 %
Living on private means	2	8	0	2	25.0 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	4	19	0	2	10.5 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	18	56	0	20	35.7 %
Remaining occupations	2	4	0	1	25.0 %

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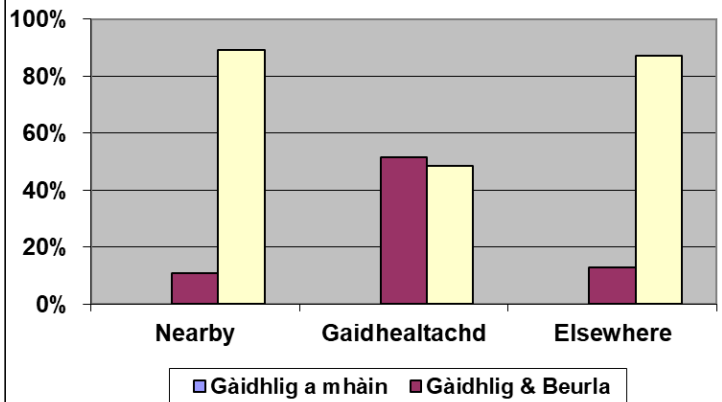
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken by a few locally born inhabitants, but most Gàidhlig-speakers originated from the wider *Gaidhealtachd*.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Ardcloch 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 72 bilingual inhabitants out of a total population of 377 persons (19.1%). The usually resident population of 342 persons, however, consisted of 68 Gàidhlig-speakers (19.9%).
2. No monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers were recorded in the area in 1891.