

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 201

Page 1 of 4

Area: *Tunga (Tongue): Sgeara, Modsairigh, Sgeara Beag, Taobh Beag, Clais Èadaidh, Achadh na Bata & Achadh Totaidh*

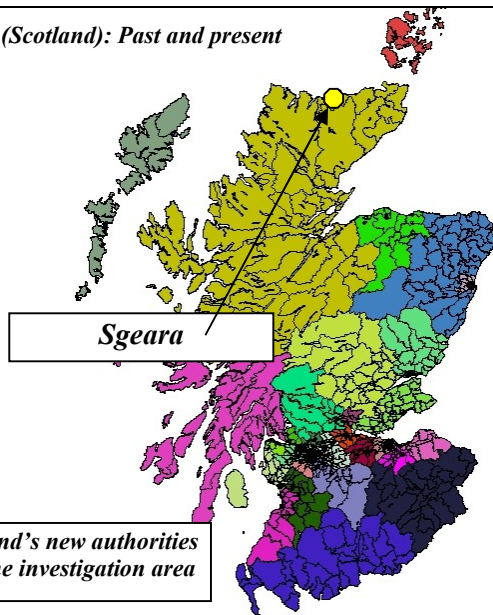
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Modsary, Lamigo, Skerraybeg, Skerray Mains, Torroy, Tubeg, Clashaddy, Skerray Schoolhouse, Clashelovan, Achnabad, Achtoty)

Number of households: 49 **Population present at census night:** 234

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 96.7 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Sutherland</i>	<i>Tongue</i>	Tongue	10	1 – 10

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

The communities in question were thoroughly Gàidhlig-speaking apart from members of the schoolteacher's family. They ignored the language of their pupils.

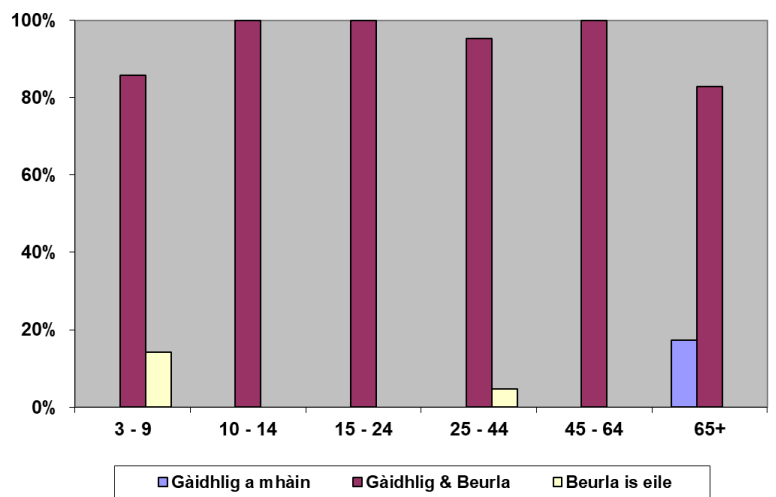
Apart from a handful of monolingual (elderly) Gàidhlig-speakers most usually resident persons were bilingual - at least on the census sheets.

Universally Gàidhlig-speaking were the crofting hamlets of *Taobh Beag* (Tubeg), *Achadh nam Bata* (Achnabad) and *Achadh Totaidh* (Achtoty).

Area description:

This factsheet is concerned with some small communities on the northern coast of the Scottish mainland near the bay of *Caolas Tunga* (Kyle of Tongue). The whole area was part of the county of *Cataibh* (Sutherland).

The tiny communities around the hamlet of *Sgeara* (Skerray) were mostly occupied with crofting and fishing.



Age profile: Share of population speaking (1) Gàidhlig, (2) Gàidhlig & English, or (3) no Gàidhlig at all

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 201

Page 2 of 4

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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	234	20	0	0	214	5	202	96.7 %
3-4	11	0	0	0	11	0	8	72.7 %
5-9	17	0	0	0	17	0	16	94.1 %
10-14	25	0	0	0	25	0	25	100.0 %
15-24	30	0	0	0	30	0	30	100.0 %
25-44	64	0	0	0	64	0	61	95.3 %
45-64	38	0	0	0	38	0	38	100.0 %
65+	29	0	0	0	29	5	24	100.0 %
Gender								
Female	128	9	0	0	119	3	112	96.6 %
Male	106	11	0	0	95	2	90	96.8 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	213	19	0	0	194	5	187	99.0 %
In neighbouring parish¹	8	1	0	0	7	0	7	100.0 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	5	0	0	0	5	0	5	100.0 %
Other places	8	0	0	0	8	0	3	37.5 %

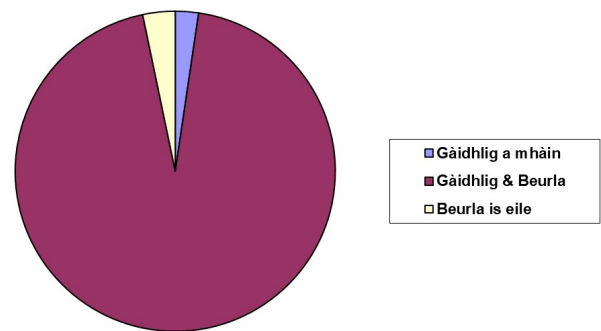
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Farr or Durness (both Sutherland).

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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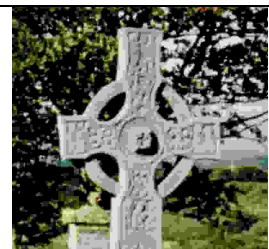
No. 201

Page 3 of 4

Area: *Tunga* (Tongue): *Sgeara, Modsairigh, Sgeara Beag, Taobh Beag, Clais Èadaidh, Achadh na Bata & Achadh Totaidh*

	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	<i>Gàidhlig</i>	<i>Gàidhlig</i> & English	<i>Gàidhlig</i> speakers (%)
<i>Sgeara & Modsairigh</i>	49	214	5	202	96.7 %
Individual communities					
<i>Modsairigh & Tòrr Ruadh</i> (Modsary & Torroy)	13	65	4	60	98.5 %
<i>Taobh Beag</i> (Tubeg)	17	71	1	70	100.0 %
<i>Clais Èadaidh & An Taigh Sgoile</i> (Clashaidy & Schoolhouse)	14	55	0	49	89.1 %
<i>Achadh nam Bata & Achadh Totaidh</i> (Achnabad & Achtoty)	5	23	0	23	100.0 %
Language of parents					
Both parents <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	22	119	1	117	99.2 %
Single parent <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	5	21	0	21	100.0 %
One parent <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking parent	1	7	0	1	14.3 %
Households with no children (0-14)	21	67	4	63	100.0 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	35	176	5	170	99.4 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	0	0	0	0	-
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	7	0	1	14.3 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	6	19	0	19	100.0 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	1	2	0	2	100.0 %
Remaining occupations	6	10	0	10	100.0 %

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Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Page 4 of 4

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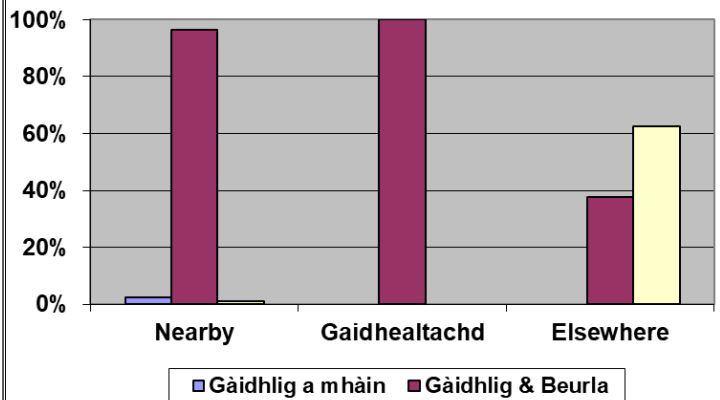
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken by people either born nearby or in the wider *Gaidhealtachd*. Incomers ignored the local tongue.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Tongue or in the adjacent parishes of Farr or Durness (both Sutherland).

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 207 bilingual inhabitants and five monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 234 persons (90.6%). The usually resident population of 214 persons, however, consisted of 207 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (96.7%) including five inhabitants “with no English”.
2. The five inhabitants “with no English” were all older than 65 years.
3. Besides a 3-year-old child of a crofter’s household in *Sgeara* (Skerray), the other “English only” census returns were provided by the schoolteacher’s family. The parents came from Ayrshire respectively Edinburgh and their offspring was not taught the language of their fellow pupils.