

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 203

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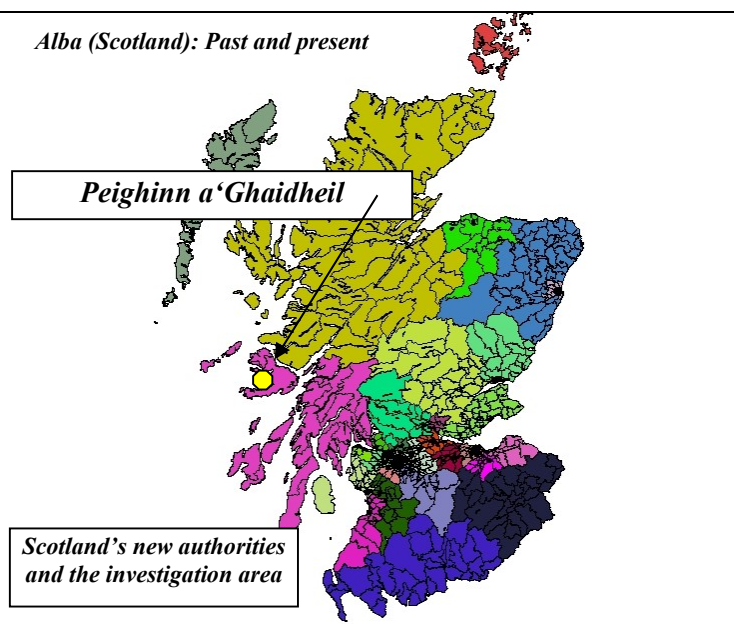
Area: Muile (Mull): Peighinn a'Ghaidheil, Tir Odhrain, Griobuinn, Na Tòrranan, Ceann Locha, Carsaig, Àird Chraoisnis & Innis Choinnich

(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Durrach, Kilfinichen, Balvulin, Tiroran, Scobull, Tavool, Balmeanach House, Gribun, Inchkenneth, Pennyghael, Killunaig, Carsaig, Pennycross, Inniemore, Kinloch House, Glenleedale, Kinloch, Ardverignish, Torrans, Tolls, Torranbeg, Beach, Ardchrishnish, Kilpatrick)

Number of households: 86 Population present at census night: 414

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 93.2 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Argyll	Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon	Kilfinichen	1	1 – 6
			2	1 – 10
			3	1 - 3



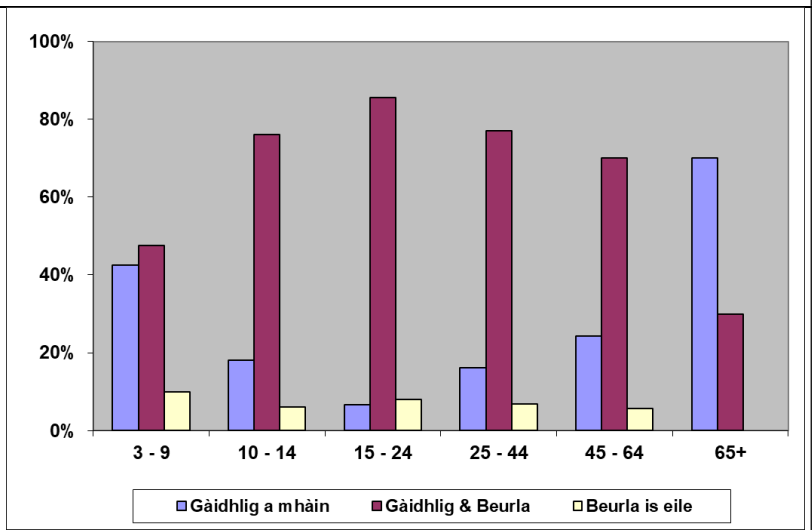
State of Gàidhlig in 1891:
 The language was used almost exclusively by the local inhabitants – a quarter of the people still spoke no English at all. These monolingual speakers were especially found in the youngest and oldest age groups. In between school education logically led to acquaintance with English.

In stark contrast the higher society of the estates lived its separate life ignoring largely the culture of their neighbourhood. Gàidhlig was conspicuous by its absence. Two very different societies lived side by side in this remote island location.

Area description:

The investigation area is situated on the western side of the island of Muile (Mull) in the Inner Hebrides. The sparsely populated shores of Loch Sgriodain were home to a few crofting families under the bewildered eyes of the landed gentry in their lodges and mansions.

Main occupations of the local inhabitants (besides crofting and coastal fishing) were providing services for the landlords of the time. Most of the land was given over to sheep grazing and shooting sports.



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	414	18	0	16	380	98	256	93.2 %
3-4	23	0	0	0	23	15	6	91.3 %
5-9	57	0	0	0	57	19	32	89.5 %
10-14	50	0	0	0	50	9	38	94.0 %
15-24	80	0	0	4	76	5	65	92.1 %
25-44	81	0	0	7	74	12	57	93.2 %
45-64	75	0	0	5	70	17	49	94.3 %
65+	30	0	0	0	30	21	9	100.0 %
Gender								
Female	206	7	0	2	52	52	128	91.4 %
Male	208	11	0	14	46	46	128	95.1 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	275	16	0	1	258	76	179	98.8 %
In neighbouring parish¹	25	0	0	1	24	7	17	100.0 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	81	1	0	12	68	12	52	94.1 %
Other places	33	1	0	2	30	3	8	36.7 %

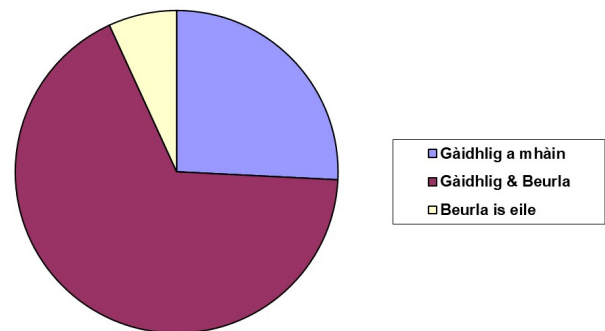
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Torosay or Kilninian & Kilmore (both Argyll).

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 & Beurla, 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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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Muile: Peighinn a'Ghaidheil</i>	86	380	98	256	93.2 %
Individual communities					
<i>Tìr Odhrain & Griòbuinn</i> (Tiroran & Gribun)	30	136	38	81	87.5 %
<i>Peighinn a'Ghaidheil & Carsaig</i> (Pennyghael & Carsaig)	43	192	33	150	95.3 %
<i>Na Tòrranan & Àird Chraoisnis</i> (Torrans & Ardchrisnish)	13	52	27	25	100.0 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	30	203	55	148	100.0 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	11	48	12	36	100.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	3	26	1	14	57.7 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	2	18	0	4	22.2 %
Households with no children (0-14)	40	85	30	54	98.8 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	14	95	25	68	98.9 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	11	52	24	28	100.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	2	6	0	6	100.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	9	27	2	25	100.0 %
Living on private means	3	33	1	14	45.5 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	7	37	9	22	83.8 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	34	120	31	89	100.0 %
Remaining occupations	6	10	6	4	100.0 %

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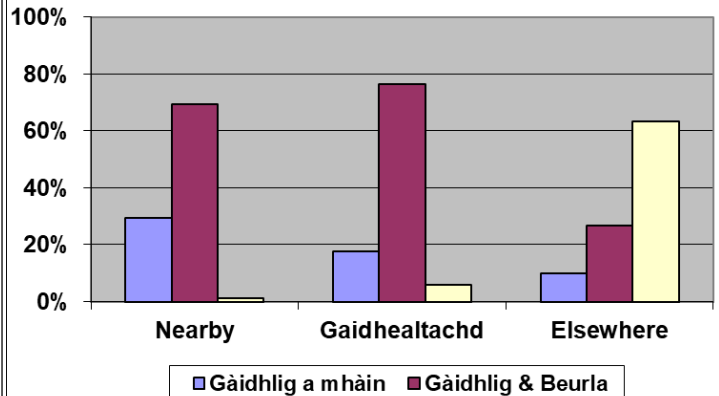
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken by almost everyone except for a few persons living in stately homes and lodges.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon or in the adjacent parishes of Torosay or Kilninian & Kilmore (both Argyll).

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 268 bilingual inhabitants and 103 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 414 persons (89.6 %). The usually resident population of 380 persons, however, consisted of 354 Gàidhlig-speakers (93.2%) including 98 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. The bulk of the 26 enumerated monolingual English-speakers lived in five establishments: Pennycross House (2), Inniemore Lodge (7), Kilfinichen House (6), Tavool House (3), and Balmeanach House (5). They were a society apart.