

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 204

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Area: **Muile (Mull): Àird Tunna, An Sgùrr, Cill Mhic Eòghain, Lighe, An Cnocan & Eorabus**

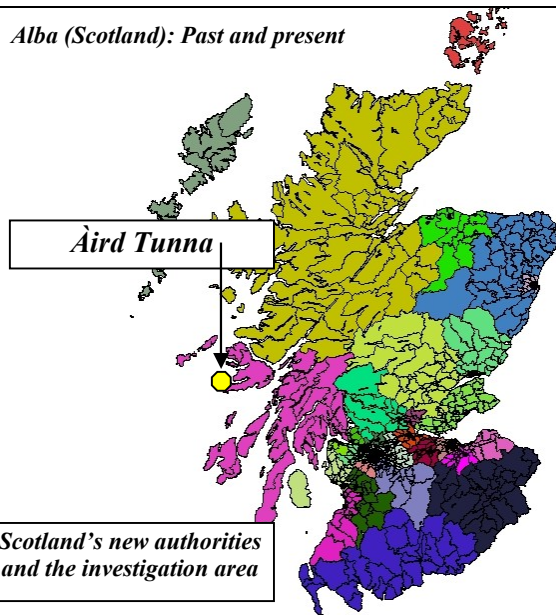
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Scoor, Shiaba, Kilvickeon, Lee, Assopol, Leebe, Knockan, Achdaphail, Braemanin, Auchnahard, Eorabus, Ardtun Cottage, Rhuamore, Gowabrae)

Number of households: 90 Population present at census night: 352

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 96.0 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Argyll	Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon	Kilfinichen	4	1 – 5
			5	1 - 11

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

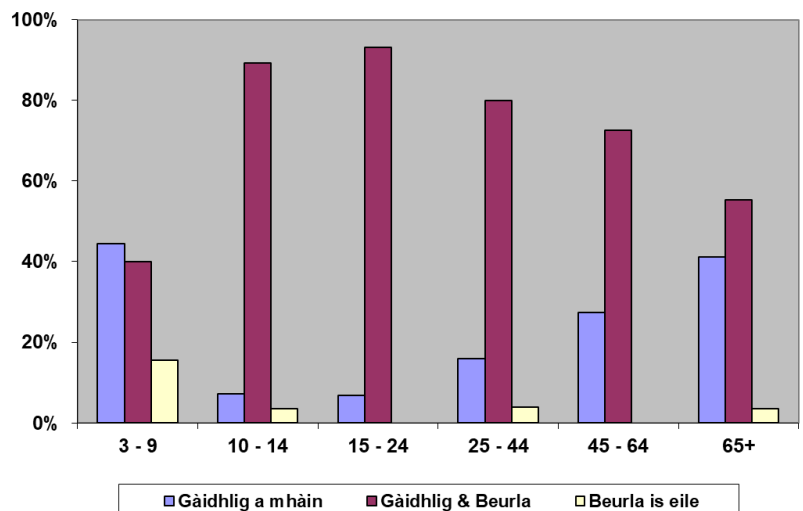
Almost a quarter of the population spoke only Gàidhlig and no English at all. This was very evident at pre-school age and among the elderly.

Overall Gàidhlig was spoken by virtually everyone apart from a handful of incomers from the Lowlands or England.

Area description:

The investigated communities lived on the eastern part of the peninsula *An Ros Muileach* (Ross of Mull) on the Hebridean island of *Muile* (Mull).

Major occupations of the local population were crofting including animal husbandry and some near-shore fishing. Further economic factors were landlord-related activities of shepherds and gamekeepers.



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	352	18	0	13	321	80	228	96.0 %
3-4	11	0	0	1	10	7	1	80.0 %
5-9	37	0	0	2	35	13	17	85.7 %
10-14	29	0	0	1	28	2	25	96.4 %
15-24	47	0	0	3	44	3	41	100.0 %
25-44	77	0	0	2	75	12	60	96.0 %
45-64	75	0	0	2	73	20	53	100.0 %
65+	58	0	0	2	56	23	31	96.4 %
Gender								
Female	181	10	0	5	166	40	119	95.8 %
Male	171	8	0	8	155	40	109	96.1 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	270	17	0	7	246	69	175	99.2 %
In neighbouring parish¹	11	0	0	0	11	4	7	100.0 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	40	0	0	2	38	6	28	89.5 %
Other places	31	1	0	4	26	1	18	73.1 %

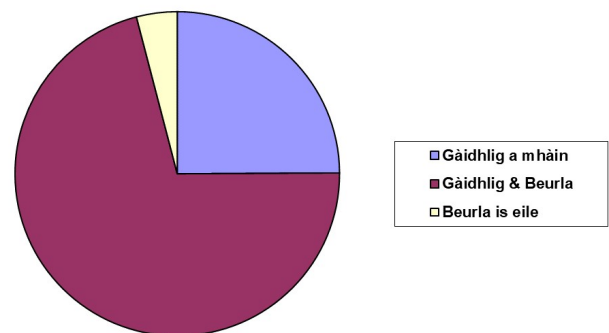
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Torosay or Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon (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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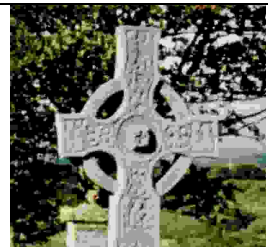
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Area: **Muile (Mull): Àird Tunna, An Sgùrr, Cill Mhic Eòghain, Lighe, An Cnocan & Eorabus**

	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Àird Tunna & Cill Mhic Eòghain	90	321	80	228	96.0 %
Individual communities					
Cill Mhic Eòghain, An Lighe & An Sgùrr (Kilvickeon, Lee & Scoor)	28	99	17	73	90.9 %
Cnocan, Àird Tunna & Eorabus (Knockan, Ardtun & Eorabus)	62	222	63	155	98.2 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	24	132	29	103	100.0 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	8	39	11	24	89.7 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	1	6	0	0	0.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	57	144	40	101	97.9 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	34	155	37	112	96.1 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	4	15	1	8	60.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	4	20	1	19	100.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	6	18	7	11	100.0 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	2	8	2	6	100.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	31	90	27	62	98.9 %
Remaining occupations	9	15	5	10	100.0 %

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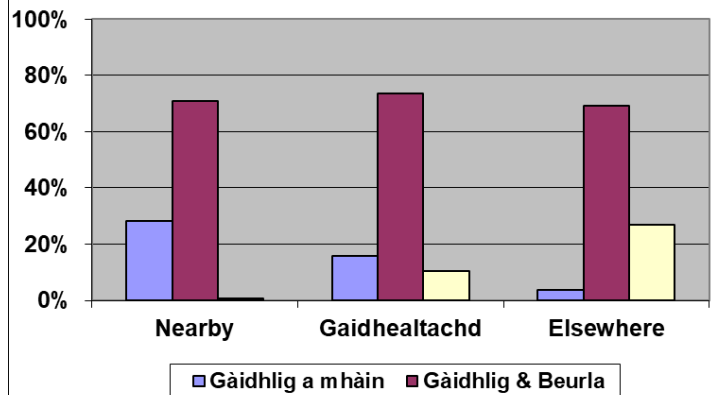
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken by virtually everyone irrespective of birthplace.

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 242 bilingual inhabitants in addition to 85 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 356 persons (91.9 %). The usually resident population of 321 persons, however, consisted of 308 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (96.0 %) including 80 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. There were just thirteen entrants with “no Gaelic”. Six of them were provided by a shepherd’s family from Kirkcudbrightshire. Another four of these monolingual residents came from a widow, who had brought up her children from Middlesex (England) to her grandfather’s home in *Eorabus*.