

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 206

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Area: *Latharn (Lorn): Baile a'Chaolais*

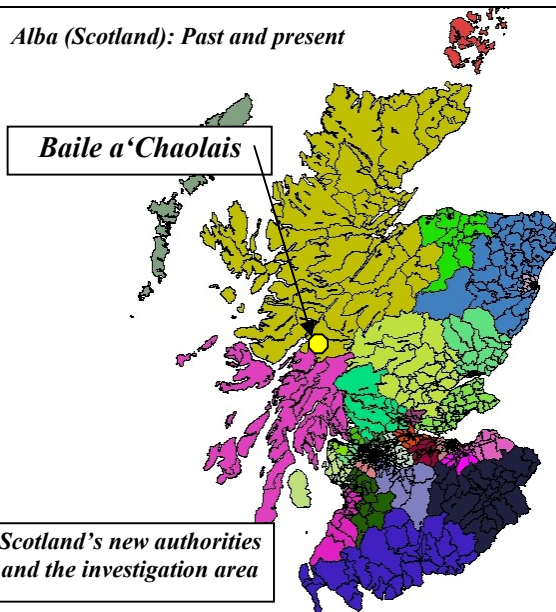
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Ballachulish Road, Laroch)

Number of households: 213 Population present at census night: 998

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 93.3 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Argyll	Lismore & Appin	Glencoe & Ballachulish	1 2	3 - 31 1 - 13 (part)

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

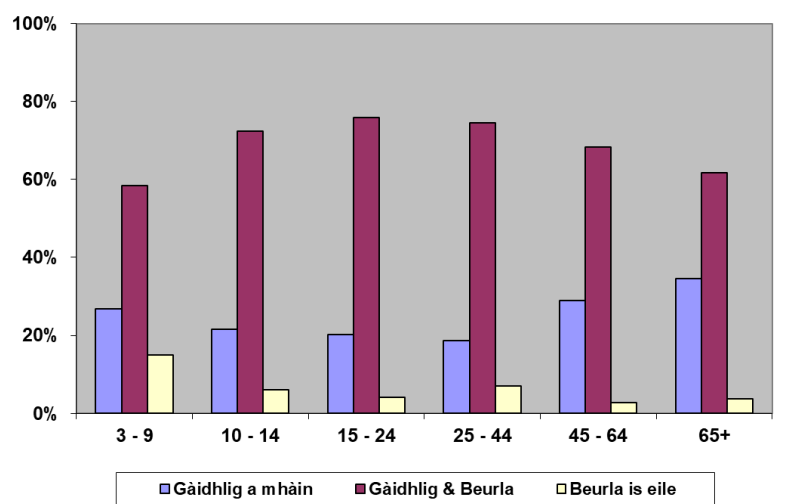
Gàidhlig was very much the natural means of communication in this fast-growing village. Most of the workers came from all over Scotland, but predominantly from Highland communities. Not surprisingly, only those born in the Lowlands or even further away partly clinged to their English preference.

Very significant was the high percentage of Gàidhlig monolingual persons counted in this census. Almost a quarter of all residents spoke only the traditional tongue, especially at very young age.

## Area description:

The community under investigation is situated on the southern shores of sheltered fjord of *Loch Liobhann* (Loch Leven) in the Western Highlands. Its name *Baile a'Chaolais* ("village at the narrows") relates to the narrow entrance to this saltwater loch nearby.

Major (almost exclusive) economic factor was slate quarrying in the hill slopes around.



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. <sup>3</sup>	Total <sup>4</sup>	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>93.3 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>78.4 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>88.0 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>94.0 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>96.0 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>93.0 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>97.3 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>96.3 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>92.1 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>94.3 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>96.9 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>149</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>95.0 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>48.4 %</b>

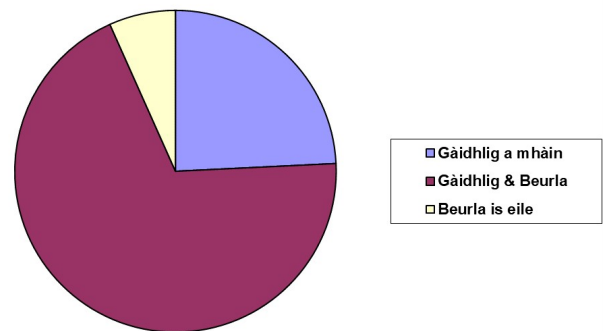
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Kilmallie (Inverness-shire), Ardchattan & Muckairn or Glenorchy & Inishail (both Argyll).

<sup>2</sup> Other parishes in Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.

<sup>3</sup> People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers, or other similar terms.

<sup>4</sup> 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](http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP_english.htm).

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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b><i>Baile a'Chaolais</i></b>	<b>213</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>93.3 %</b>
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>An Làrach an Iar</i> (West Laroach)	17	75	6	61	89.3 %
<i>Rathad Baile a'Chaolais</i> (Ballachulish Road)	130	561	116	410	93.8 %
<i>An Làrach an Ear</i> (East Laroach)	66	276	99	159	93.5 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
<b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>98.3 %</b>
<b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>47.6 %</b>
<b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16.2 %</b>
<b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>96.1 %</b>
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
<b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>56.7 %</b>
<b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>34.6 %</b>
<b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>94.8 %</b>
<b>Living on private means</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>82.5 %</b>
<b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>97.4 %</b>
<b>Remaining occupations</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>83.3 %</b>

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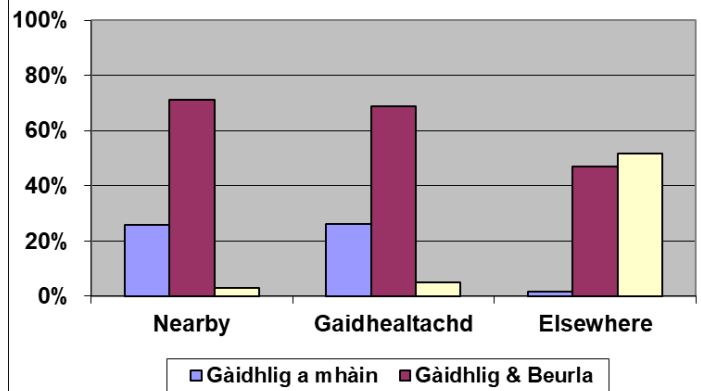
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was almost spoken universally apart from residents born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Lismore & Appin or in the adjacent parishes of Kilmallie (Inverness-shire), Ardchattan & Muckairn or Glenorchy & Inishail (both Argyll).

<sup>2</sup> Born in other parishes of Scotland with more than 50 % *Gàidhlig* speakers in the 1891 census.



Speakers according to place of birth (1) nearby<sup>1</sup> (2) in remaining *Gaidhealtachd*<sup>2</sup>, or (3) elsewhere

## Remarks:

1. Official census figures reported 585 bilingual inhabitants in addition to the 209 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 1,001 persons (79.4%). The usually resident population of 912 inhabitants, however, consisted of 851 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (93.3%) including 221 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. The marked difference between official census counts and these statistics is caused by some evaluation errors in 1891. In a number of cases only the language of the household head was marked explicitly by a “G” or “G&E” and the remaining household members got only a repeat mark behind their names. Census officials obviously counted the latter entries as “English only” and thus obtained a very low incidence of *Gàidhlig*-speaking.