

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 031

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Area: *Àird nam Murchan (Ardnamurchan): An Gleann Mòr, An Gleann Beag, An Camas Bàn, Àird Slignis, Camas nan Gall, Torr na Monaidh, Fasgadail, Achadh an Teine, Bràigh nan Allt, Cùl Odhrain, Ocal, Cill Mhoire, Suardal, Ocal Uarach*

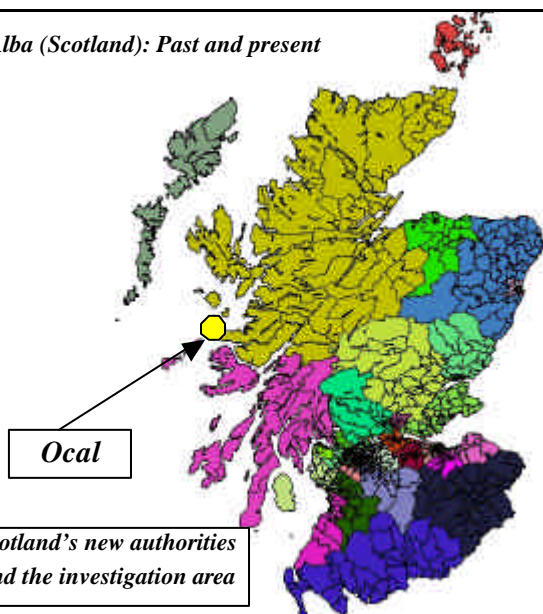
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms : Glenmore, Camusban, Ardslnish, Camusnagaul, Tornamona, Glenbeg, Faskadale, Achateny, Brahausa, Branault, Culoran, Kilmory, Swordle, Ockle, Upper Ockle)

Number of households: 57 **Population present at census night:** 270

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 93.5 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Argyll	Ardnamurchan	West Ardnamurchan	1	1 - 3
			2	1 - 9

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

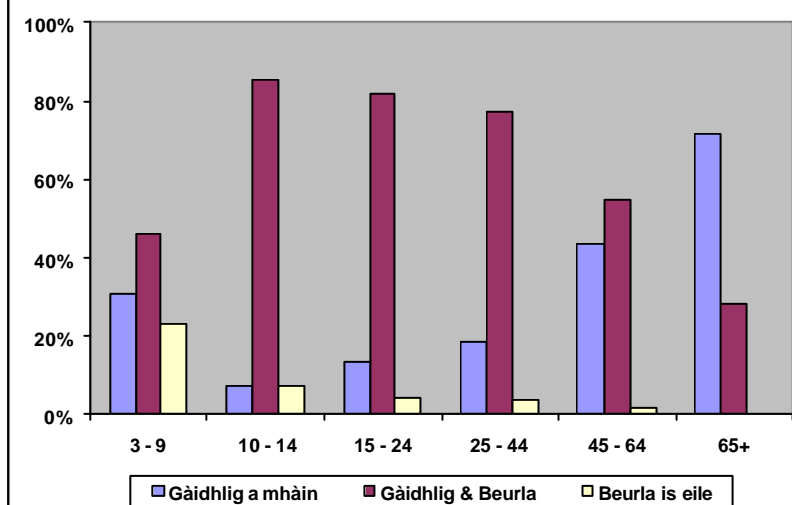
The vast majority of the usually resident population was Gàidhlig-speaking; a large number of them did not speak English at all. Most of these monolingual Gàidhlig speakers were to be found among the older generation beyond the age of 44. The few English monolingual returns had either a Lowland background or were doubtful census records.

All crofting settlements were almost equally strong Gàidhlig-speaking.

Area description:

The district is situated in the central part of the *Aird nam Murchan* (Ardnamurchan) peninsula in the north-western mainland of the old county of *Earra-Ghaidheal* (Argyll).

The scattered townships mostly cling to the coast on both sides of the peninsula, *Cill Mhoire* (Kilmory) being by far the largest of these crofting communities. All hamlets looked to the sea as their only avenue to the outside world.



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 ¹	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	270	13	0	11	246	75	155	93.5 %
3-4	9	0	0	0	9	4	2	66.7 %
5-9	31	0	0	1	30	8	16	80.0 %
10-14	28	0	0	1	27	2	23	92.6 %
15-24	47	0	0	4	43	6	35	95.3 %
25-44	53	0	0	1	52	9	41	96.2 %
45-64	52	0	0	1	51	22	28	98.0 %
65+	37	0	0	3	34	24	10	100 %
Gender								
Female	138	10	0	2	126	52	70	96.8 %
Male	124	6	0	2	116	40	74	98.3 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	224	13	0	5	206	69	126	94.7 %
In neighbouring parish	11	0	0	0	11	2	8	90.9 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	19	0	0	2	17	4	13	100 %
Other places	16	0	0	4	12	0	8	66.7 %

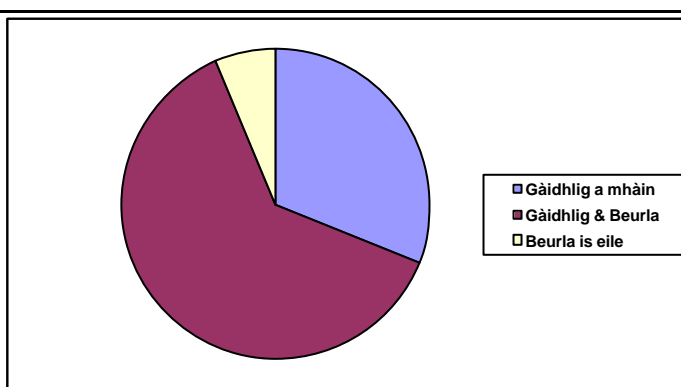
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Ardgour, Morvern (both Argyll); Arisaig & Moidart, Kilmallie (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 fact-sheets are a welcome way to publish some of the “local gems”. More information is provided at http://www.linguae-celticae.org/GLP_english.htm.

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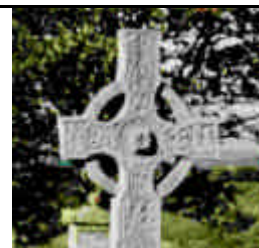
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Ocal, Cill Mhoire & An Gleann Mòr</i>	57	246	75	155	93.5 %
Individual communities					
<i>An Gleann Mòr & An Camas Bàn</i> (Glenmore & Camusban)	8	31	14	17	100 %
<i>Àird Slignis & Camas nan Gall</i> (Ardslignish & Camusnagaul)	4	23	5	18	100 %
<i>Fascadal, Achadh an Teine & Bràigh nan Allt</i> (Fascadale, Achateny & Branault)	8	28	8	16	85.7 %
<i>Cùl Odhrain</i> (Culoran)	8	39	7	25	82.1 %
<i>Cill Mhoire</i> (Kilmory)	15	64	14	48	96.9 %
<i>Suardal</i> (Swordle)	6	22	10	9	86.4 %
<i>Ocal & Ocal Uarach</i> (Ockle & Upper Ockle)	8	39	17	22	100 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	18	120	29	85	95.0 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	5	26	5	21	100 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	1	6	0	0	0.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	33	94	41	49	95.7 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	39	185	49	122	92.4 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	5	27	11	16	100 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	9	0	7	77.8 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	1	3	0	3	100 %
Living on private means	1	2	0	2	100 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	10	20	15	5	100 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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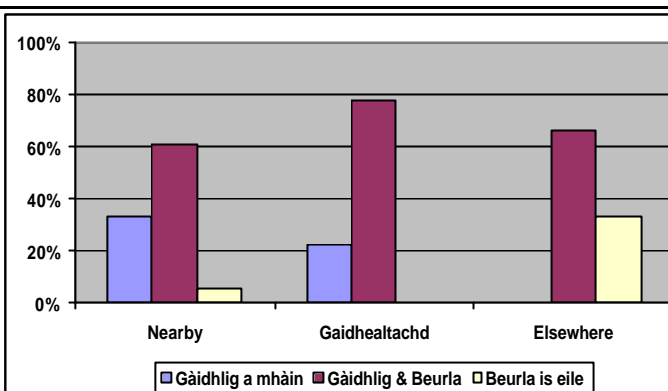
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

A substantial portion of the locally born population was still monolingual. Even a third of inhabitants with a birthplace outside the *Gaidhealtachd* was returned as Gàidhlig speaking.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Ardnamurchan or in the adjacent parishes of Ardour, Morvern (both Argyll), Arisaig & Moidart, Kilmallie (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. Sixteen usually resident persons (aged 3 years or over) were enumerated as not speaking *Gàidhlig*. Three persons “with no Gaelic” lived in *Fasgadail* (Fascadail) in the household of a salmon fisher from Abernethy in Perthshire. In *Achadh an Teine* (Achateny) a farmer spoke exclusively English, too. Understandably he was born in Crawfordjohn (Lanarkshire) in the Lowlands. However, a rather doubtful return in this category was delivered by a crofting household in *Cùl Odhrain* (Culoran): All seven members (including the widow herself) did not have a “G&E” or “G” marked on their registration sheets although all of them were born locally. The remaining five “no Gaelic” returns were small children in two local families.
2. In original census report terms the district had a population of 269 persons of all ages. 163 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 81 were counted as monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers. This led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 90.7 %. Accordingly the figure was a slight under-estimate of 2.8 % caused by the inclusion of under three olds in the population base.