

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 053

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Area: Stòr (Stoer): An Cùl-Cinn, Achadh nan Càrnan, Rubha an Stòir & An Rathan

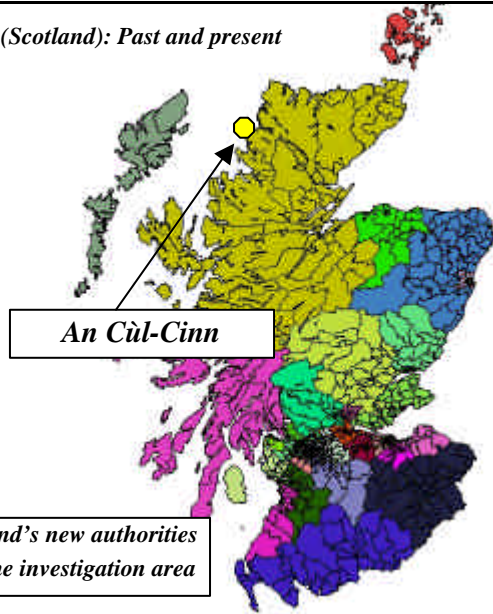
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Culkein, Culkein Auchnacarnin, Achnacarnin, Stoer Head Lighthouse, Raffin)

Number of households: 75 Population present at census night: 383

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

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Sutherland	Assynt	Stoer	7	1 - 17

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

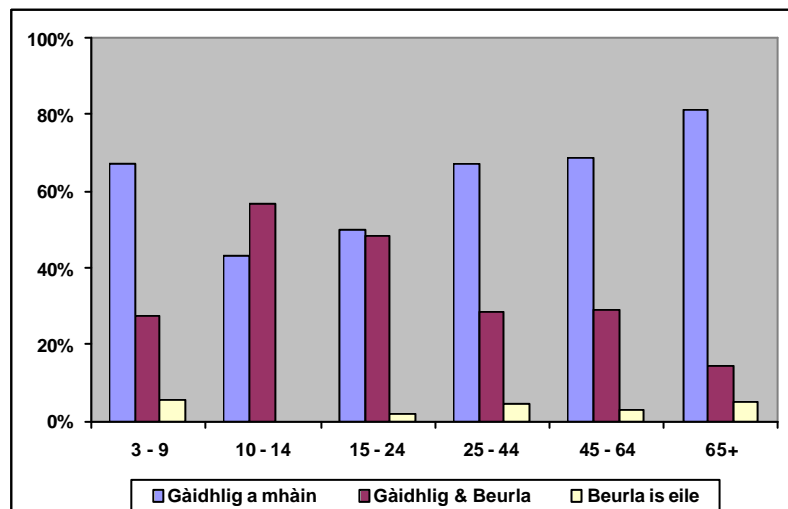
The vast majority of the usually resident population spoke Gàidhlig. In fact most people did not speak English at all. With the exception of children aged between 10 and 14 the Gàidhlig monolinguals still held the majority.

Half of the “English only” population was supplied by the families of two lighthouse keepers on *Rubha an Stòir* (Stoer Head). They were surrounded by a sea of Gàidhlig speakers. In the crofting townships of *Achadh nan Càrnan* (Auchnacarnin) and *An Rathan* (Raffin) all inhabitants spoke the traditional tongue, most of them were monolingual.

Area description:

The area is situated on the western seaboard of the ancient county of *Cataibh* (Sutherland) and occupies the western part of the district of *An Stòr* (Stoer). Besides a few crofting settlements around the hamlet of *An Cùl-Cinn* (Culkein) a prominent feature was the lighthouse at *Rubha an Stòir* (Stoer Head).

Crofting and fishing were the main occupations of the local population at the time. Main connection to the outside world was the sea. Narrow coastal tracks were the only alternative to reach places like *Loch an Inbhir* (Lochinver) many miles away.



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	383	22	0	1	360	228	120	96.7 %
3-4	15		0	0	15	11	3	93.3 %
5-9	40		0	0	40	26	12	95.0 %
10-14	46		0	0	46	20	26	100 %
15-24	57		0	1	56	28	27	98.2 %
25-44	88		0	0	88	59	25	95.5 %
45-64	73		0	0	73	50	21	97.3 %
65+	42		0	0	42	34	6	95.2 %
Gender								
Female	193	9	0	1	183	122	53	95.6 %
Male	190	13	0	0	177	106	67	97.7 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	362	22	0	1	339	226	112	99.7 %
In neighbouring parish¹	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	6	0	0	0	6	1	5	100 %
Other places	14	0	0	0	14	0	3	21.4 %

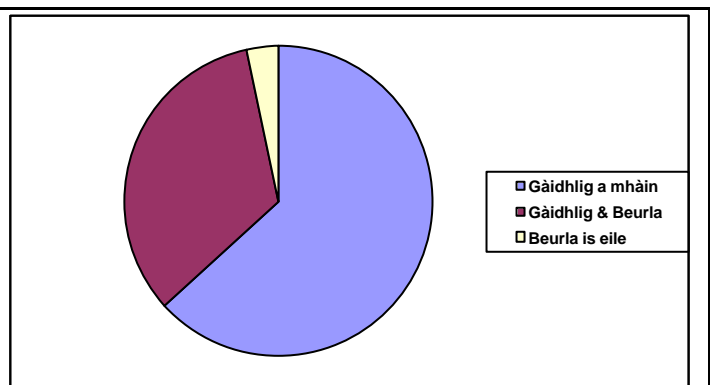
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Lochbroom, Kincardine (both Ross & Cromarty); Eddrachillis, Creich (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 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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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>An Cùl-Cinn</i>	75	360	228	120	96.7 %
Individual communities					
<i>Achadh nan Càrnan</i> (Achnacarnin)	24	114	73	41	100 %
<i>An Cùl-Cinn</i> (Culkein)	36	176	99	71	96.6 %
<i>Rubha an Stòir (Taigh Soluis)</i> (Stoer Head - Lighthouse)	2	12	0	6	50.0 %
<i>An Rathan</i> (Raffin)	13	58	56	2	100 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	28	176	123	53	100 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	9	48	16	32	100 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	2	16	0	11	68.8 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	1	2	0	0	0.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	35	118	89	24	95.8 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	59	288	200	82	97.9 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	0	0	0	0	-
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	2	12	0	6	50.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	6	34	10	24	100 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	8	18	18	8	100 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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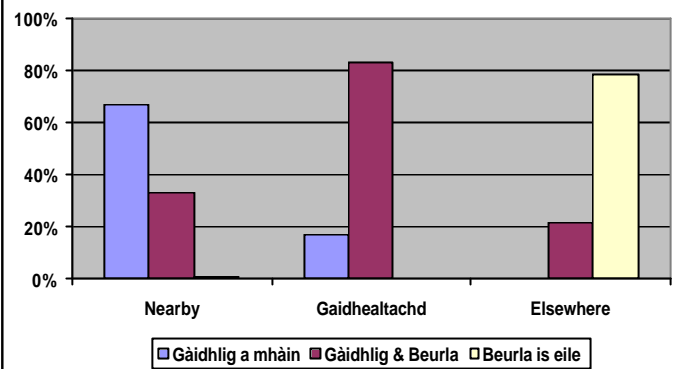
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The majority of locally born residents spoke no English. All inhabitants with a birthplace in the remaining *Gaidhealtachd* spoke Gàidhlig.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Assynt or in the adjacent parishes of Lochbroom and Kincardine (both Ross & Cromarty) or Eddrachillis and Creich (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. Just twelve persons did not speak Gàidhlig. Six of them were household members of the two lighthouse keepers on *Rubha an Stòir* (Stoer Head). An additional return came from a London-born wife of a retired professor of English literature. The remaining five returns with no “G&E” or “G” marked on their registration sheets came from the crofting family of Kenneth MacLeod in *Cùl-Cinn* where apparently only incomplete census information had been recorded. It is very doubtful that this family could be considered seriously as a English monolingual family.
2. Official census figures in this part of *Asainn* (Assynt) reported 122 bilingual inhabitants and 242 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 383 persons (95.0 %). The usually resident population consisted of 348 Gàidhlig-speakers (96.7 %) and twelve persons “with no Gaelic” (see above).