

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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**Area: Crothaigh (Croy): Baile Chrothaigh, Càrn Glas, Baile Chlephane, Blàr na Fàd, Cinn Choille, Cill Droma, Moine Chaladair, Taobh Narainn, Ceann Locha & Cill Ràthaig**

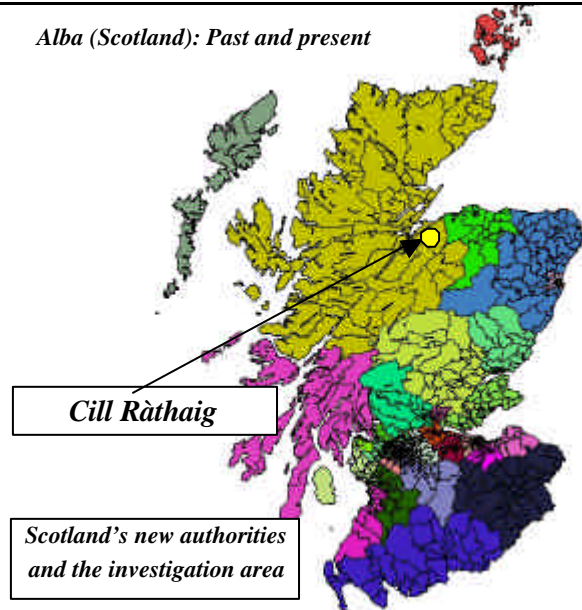
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Clephanton, Balcroy, Blarnafade, Kinchyle, Kildrummie, Rosefield, Bog of Cawdor, Nairnside, Woodlands, Cairnglass, Tomlinquhart, Clanside, Bennechtie, Easter Lochend, Wester Lochend & Kilravock)

**Number of households: 83      Population present at census night: 360**

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 42.1 %**

| County | Civil parish | Registration district | Enumeration district number | Census form pages |
|--------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Nairn  | Croy         | Croy & Dalcross       | 1<br>2                      | 1 - 9<br>2 - 9    |

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



Cill Ràthaig

Scotland's new authorities and the investigation area

## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

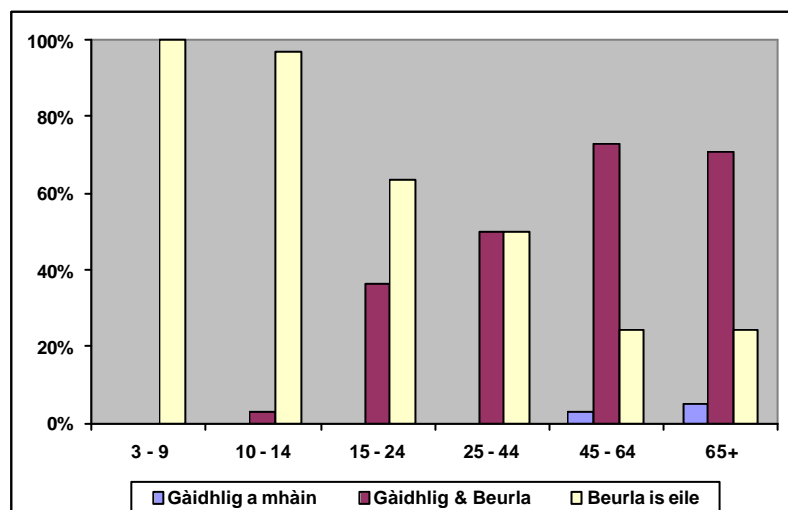
The language had already retreated very fast in this rural community. Although most old persons still spoke Gàidhlig, the number of young speakers was almost negligible. The four monolingual Gàidhlig speakers were all older than 50 years of age and originated from stronger language communities in the *Gaidhealtachd*.

The most vigorous language communities of this district were to be found around the farms of *Càrn Glas* (Cairnglass) and in the hamlet of *Baile Chlephane* (Clephanton) where almost 60 % of the usually resident population still spoke Gàidhlig in 1891.

## Area description:

The district covered lies to the east of the city of *Inbhirnis* (Inverness) on the coastal plain near the boundary between the counties of *Narann* (Nairn) and *Inbhirnis* (Inverness).

People in the vicinity of *Caisteal Cill Ràthaig* (Kilravock Castle) earned their living from the fertile countryside; many of the folk were directly employed by the local laird as shepherds or 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. <sup>3</sup> | Total <sup>1</sup>               | Gàidhlig | Gàidhlig & English | Gàidhlig speakers (%) |
| <b>Age</b>                                 |                       |           |             |                            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>360</b>            | <b>25</b> | <b>0</b>    | <b>7</b>                   | <b>328</b>                       | <b>4</b> | <b>134</b>         | <b>42.1 %</b>         |
| <b>3-4</b>                                 | <b>18</b>             |           | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>19</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>           | <b>0.0 %</b>          |
| <b>5-9</b>                                 | <b>42</b>             |           | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>42</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>           | <b>0.0 %</b>          |
| <b>10-14</b>                               | <b>34</b>             |           | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>34</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b>           | <b>2.9 %</b>          |
| <b>15-24</b>                               | <b>56</b>             |           | <b>0</b>    | <b>1</b>                   | <b>55</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>20</b>          | <b>36.4 %</b>         |
| <b>25-44</b>                               | <b>75</b>             |           | <b>0</b>    | <b>3</b>                   | <b>72</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>36</b>          | <b>50.0 %</b>         |
| <b>45-64</b>                               | <b>69</b>             |           | <b>0</b>    | <b>3</b>                   | <b>66</b>                        | <b>2</b> | <b>48</b>          | <b>75.8 %</b>         |
| <b>65+</b>                                 | <b>41</b>             |           | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>41</b>                        | <b>2</b> | <b>29</b>          | <b>75.5 %</b>         |
| <b>Gender</b>                              |                       |           |             |                            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <b>Female</b>                              | <b>184</b>            | <b>15</b> | <b>0</b>    | <b>4</b>                   | <b>165</b>                       | <b>2</b> | <b>70</b>          | <b>43.6 %</b>         |
| <b>Male</b>                                | <b>176</b>            | <b>10</b> | <b>0</b>    | <b>3</b>                   | <b>163</b>                       | <b>2</b> | <b>64</b>          | <b>40.5 %</b>         |
| <b>Place of birth</b>                      |                       |           |             |                            |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <b>Born in parish</b>                      | <b>123</b>            | <b>22</b> | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>101</b>                       | <b>0</b> | <b>22</b>          | <b>21.8 %</b>         |
| <b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>  | <b>63</b>             | <b>1</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>62</b>                        | <b>0</b> | <b>37</b>          | <b>59.7 %</b>         |
| <b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b> | <b>57</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>2</b>                   | <b>55</b>                        | <b>4</b> | <b>48</b>          | <b>94.5 %</b>         |
| <b>Other places</b>                        | <b>117</b>            | <b>2</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>5</b>                   | <b>110</b>                       | <b>0</b> | <b>27</b>          | <b>24.5 %</b>         |

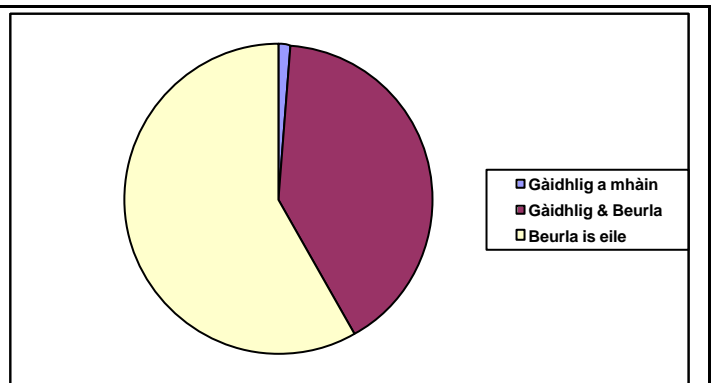
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Petty, Daviot & Dunlichity, Moy & Dalarossie, Croy & Dalcross (all Inverness) or Cawdor (Nairn).

<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 & 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 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](http://www.linguae-celticae.org/GLP_english.htm).

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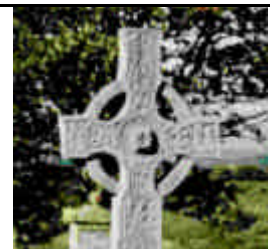
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|   | House-holds | Usually resident population (3+) |          |                    |                       |
|---|-------------|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
|   |             | Total                            | Gàidhlig | Gàidhlig & English | Gàidhlig speakers (%) |
| <i>Cill Ràthaig &amp; Ceann Locha</i>                               | 83          | 328                              | 4        | 134                | 42.1 %                |
| <b>Individual communities</b>                                       |             |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| <i>Cill Ràthaig</i><br>(Kilravock)                                  | 16          | 74                               | 0        | 23                 | 31.1 %                |
| <i>Càrn Glas &amp; Baile Chlephane</i><br>(Cairnglass & Clephanton) | 19          | 65                               | 2        | 36                 | 58.5 %                |
| <i>Baile Chrothaigh &amp; Blàr na Fàd</i><br>(Balcroy & Blarnafade) | 20          | 76                               | 1        | 28                 | 38.2 %                |
| <i>Ceann Locha &amp; Cill Droma</i><br>(Lochend & Kildrummy)        | 28          | 113                              | 1        | 47                 | 42.5 %                |
| <b>Language of parents</b>  |             |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| Both parents Gàidhlig speaking                                      | 16          | 85                               | 0        | 42                 | 49.4 %                |
| Single parent Gàidhlig speaking                                     | 3           | 11                               | 0        | 6                  | 54.5 %                |
| One parent Gàidhlig speaking  | 10          | 50                               | 0        | 14                 | 28.0 %                |
| No Gàidhlig speaking parent   | 16          | 80                               | 0        | 8                  | 10.0 %                |
| Households with no children (0-14)                                  | 38          | 102                              | 4        | 64                 | 66.7 %                |
| <b>Occupation of head of household</b>                              |             |                                  |          |                    |                       |
| Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.                                    | 17          | 95                               | 1        | 41                 | 44.2 %                |
| Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar                                     | 9           | 28                               | 2        | 12                 | 50.0 %                |
| Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.                                 | 0           | 0                                | 0        | 0                  | -                     |
| Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.                                    | 10          | 45                               | 0        | 16                 | 35.6 %                |
| Living on private means   | 1           | 7                                | 0        | 3                  | 42.9 %                |
| Manager, coachman, cook, etc.                                       | 5           | 20                               | 0        | 6                  | 30.0 %                |
| Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.                                 | 41          | 133                              | 1        | 56                 | 42.9 %                |
| Remaining occupations   | 0           | 0                                | 0        | 0                  | -                     |

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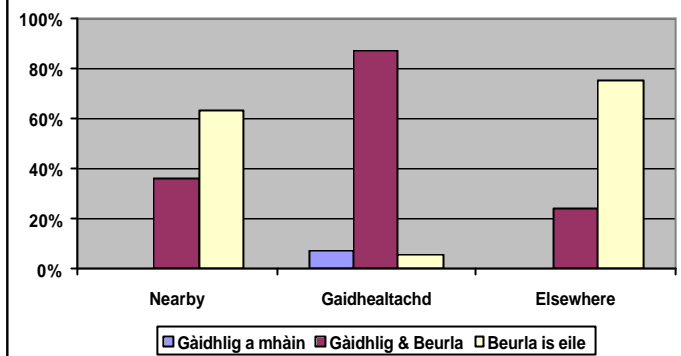
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

About a third of persons born nearby spoke Gàidhlig. Almost all people with birthplaces in the remaining *Gaidhealtachd* spoke the language with a handful of monolingual persons present.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Croy (Nairn) or in the adjacent parishes of Petty, Daviot & Dunlichity, Moy & Dalarossie, Croy & Dalcross (all Inverness) or Cawdor (Nairn).

<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. Just four persons in the area spoke “Gaelic only”. They were all advanced in age: A 55 year old servant (born in *Gleann Urchadain* = Glen Urquhart), a 73 year old shepherd from *Loch Bhraoin* (Lochbroom), a 60 years old gamekeeper’s wife from *Deimhidh* (Daviot) and a 75 year old retired domestic servant from the shores of *Loch Ma’Ruibhe* (Loch Maree).
2. Official census figures reported 137 bilingual inhabitants and 3 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 360 persons (38.9 %). The usually resident population, however, consisted of 138 Gàidhlig-speakers (42.1 %) including four persons “with no Gaelic”.