

Walter Sutherland (Norn)

Walter Sutherland (died *ca.* 1850) of **Skaw** on the island of **Unst** in **Shetland** was reported to be the last native speaker of **Norn**, a Germanic language which had once been spoken throughout Shetland, **Orkney** and **Caithness**.^{[1][2]} He lived in the northernmost house in the British Isles, near the present-day Unst Boat Haven.^[3]

Sutherland may, however, have been merely the last native speaker of Norn on Unst. Some unnamed Norn-speakers of **Foula** were reported by **Jakob Jakobsen** to have survived much later than the middle of the 19th century.^[4]

1 Notes

[1] *North-western European language evolution: NOWELE*, vols. 50-51 (Odense University Press, 2007), p. 240

[2] *Area Guide Unst*

[3] June Skinner Sawyers, *Maverick guide to Scotland* (2000), p. 557

[4] P. Sture Ureland, George Broderick, eds., *Language contact in the British Isles: proceedings of the Eighth International Symposium on Language Contact in Europe, Douglas, Isle of Man, 1988* (M. Niemeyer, 1991), p. 455

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