

9<sup>th</sup> September 1876 – Shetland Times

## **SUDDEN DEATH IN A FISHING BOAT**

It is sometimes our painful duty to inform the public of deaths by drowning, the cause of which is generally heavy seas breaking over an open boat as she flies from them in a gale, and on such occasions it is only the exception when one or two out of a crew are saved from the keel by a boat or ship chancing to pass at the time. The circumstances attending the case we are about to relate are of quite a different nature. Thomas Goodlet, sen., a native of Burra Isle, and aged about seventy-five years, died suddenly while on duty in a small boat transporting peats, on the 21<sup>st</sup> August. He was in his usual health, talking to his son and daughter, who were in the boat with him, and it was just as they were hoisting the sail and he handing the sheet to his daughter to hand aft to her brother, who was steering, that in a minute of time life was gone, and he fell down a corpse. It appears they had just got in their cargo of peats, and in Cliff Sound on their way home, when the sudden, but we cannot say *unexpected*, call came. It appears the old man had been impressed with the fact that he had not long to live, he having a few days previous been in Scalloway with a piece of wood to be so cut as to suit for being his coffin. He had been married three times, and had 19 children with the first and third wives, the second having died shortly after their marriage.