

## NOTES:

From the Scotsman Newspaper: Glasgow police helicopter crashed into the roof of The Clutha Vaults pub Friday, killing nine and seriously wounding fourteen others... ..The owner hopes to rebuild and to include a memorial to the killed and injured patrons.

Clutha: An Cluadha (Gaelic for The River Clyde).

Cluthas were steam powered ferry boats, all named Clutha, which ferried people up and down the Clyde, in the 1800s for a penny.



The Clutha Pub is located on The River Clyde, in Glasgow, and is famous for small rock band concerts. One hundred and twenty-two people were present Friday evening, when a Glasgow Police helicopter crashed through the roof, killing nine people. Thirty-two were sent to hospitals in the area and fourteen had serious injuries, requiring further treatment.

Clutha is a Scottish Country Dance, published by the R.S.C.D.S in 1983 to commemorate the ferry boats, and we dance it to show our sympathy and solidarity with the people who lost family or friends in The Clutha Vaults pub.



A number of ferries were used to cross the Clyde River Estuary. The Broomielaw is a major thoroughfare in the City of Glasgow. It runs adjacent to the Clyde, on its North bank. Once you reached Glasgow Bridge and The Broomielaw, there was no need to use ferries to cross the river as this view of Glasgow Bridge shows. The bridge opened for traffic on 2 January 1772 on the site of the present day Jamaica Bridge. In the distance you can see the Stockwell Bridge, which was later replaced by the Victoria Bridge. Between the bridges on the south side of the river you can see Carlton Place and the tall spire of Gorbals Parish Church.

The bridges provided a barrier for the navigation of larger ships any further upstream; therefore Clutha ferries ran up and down the river.

A terrible accident occurred on 30th November 1864 when a rowing boat ferry overturned in mid-channel after setting out from Clyde Street, Anderston. 27 men were packed into the ferryboat, which was being steered by the passengers while the ferryman collected the fares. Bad steering caused the swell of a passing steamer to come over the broadside of the rowing boat. The boat capsized throwing all the occupants into the freezing water. Only 8

were saved, the remaining 19 were drowned. The ferryman of the Hyde Park Ferry rescued two men who had managed to cling on the upturned boat as it flowed downstream.

The subsequent protest about the inadequacies of cross-river transportation was responsible for the introduction of steam ferries. An article published in 1899 is shown at right.



**Clutha ferry No.10 making its way down the the River Clyde from Glasgow city centre.**

**Cluthas.**—The up-and-down harbour passenger steamers, named “Cluthas,” were first introduced in 1884, when six boats were built. There are now, however, twelve plying between Victoria Bridge and Whiteinch Ferry. The full distance covered is about three miles, and the charge one penny. There are eleven landing stages on the route, alternately placed to suit both sides of the river. The time taken for the whole journey is 45 minutes. The number of passengers carried during the year ended 30th June, 1897, was 2,795,671, and the revenue £11,648 4s. 3d.

**Cross Ferries.**—Below Glasgow Bridge all cross-river communication is carried on by means of steam ferries, except at Finnieston, where there is also a tunnel, owned and worked by a private company. The first steam ferry was introduced in 1865. There are now ten of these boats. The landings, seven in number, are about a quarter of a mile apart. The ferries carry each about 100 passengers, and cost about £1,250. Service is maintained day and night. There are besides two special ferries—at Finnieston and Govan—which carry vehicles and passengers. That at Finnieston, opened in 1890, is an elevating deck ferry, built to obviate inclined roadways or slips, having the deck so constructed that it can be raised or lowered to suit the tide. It is propelled by twin screws at each end, and carries 300 passengers and eight loaded vehicles and horses. Govan Ferry is of an older type, the accesses being by inclined roadways or slips, and it propels itself along two chains stretched across the river.