

**The Ngadjuri people were the original inhabitants of Clare Valley. Their largest settlements were probably in the areas of today's towns of Clare and Auburn. And then, as usual in the modern history of Australia dating back about 230 years...**

**These were the beginnings:**

- The first European to see and traverse Clare Valley in the late 1830s was John Hill. He named the Hutt River. He named many Australian rivers, hence the title given to him by the *Register* newspaper in 1908 – the "Discoverer of the Rivers" of South Australia. Another river, Hill, was later named in his honor.
- After returning to Adelaide, John Hill informed his friend and collaborator, English explorer of the Australian continent and Governor of Jamaica, Edward John Eyre, about the pastures and fertile farmlands in this part of the continent. Eyre and eight other settlers drove a thousand sheep and 600 head of cattle to Adelaide from Monaro in NSW. Eyre sold the cattle for a large profit and set out to explore South Australia.
- He informed Pastor John Horrocks of his discoveries, who, in 1840, founded the village of Penwortham. It was the first permanent settlement in the valley.
- Settler and farmer Edward Burton Gleeson established a sheep farm in the northern part of Clare Valley. This place soon developed into a town, which throughout its history was called various names but eventually took the name Clare, after Gleeson's home county in Ireland. Gleeson was the mayor and special judge of the region.
- In 1848, Jesuits settled in a place that soon developed into the town of Sevenhill.
- In the 1840s, settlers from England, Ireland, Poland, and Silesia arrived in Clare Valley. Their first settlements have survived to this day. The settlers established vineyards, and since then, wine production has continued uninterrupted to this day. The most famous is Riesling. Clare Valley is one of Australia's most renowned wine regions. This place is known not only to the residents of Adelaide but also to numerous tourists, who, together with locals, celebrate good food and wine at various gatherings and festivals. The Clare Valley Festival of the Lamb began on September 20 and lasted several days. One of the events took place in Polish Hill River.