How to search the
Old System Purchasers Index 1896-1985

The Old System Purchasers Index is a manual index of persons acquiring or purchasing an estate or interest in land between 1896 and 1985.

Digitised images of the Old System Purchasers Index make it easier for you to research ownership of Old System land and identify associated land title records.

You can access these records through the Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV).

What is the Old System Purchasers Index?

The Old System Purchasers Index commenced on 1 July 1896 and is a manual index of persons acquiring or purchasing an estate or interest in land. The Automated Deeds Indexing System was implemented in 1992 where Old System registrations can be accessed using the Deed name search in the NSW LRS Online Portal.

Prior to 1908 the Old System Purchasers Index was compiled in alphabetical order by surname only. After 1908, it was compiled in alphabetical order by first name and surnames.

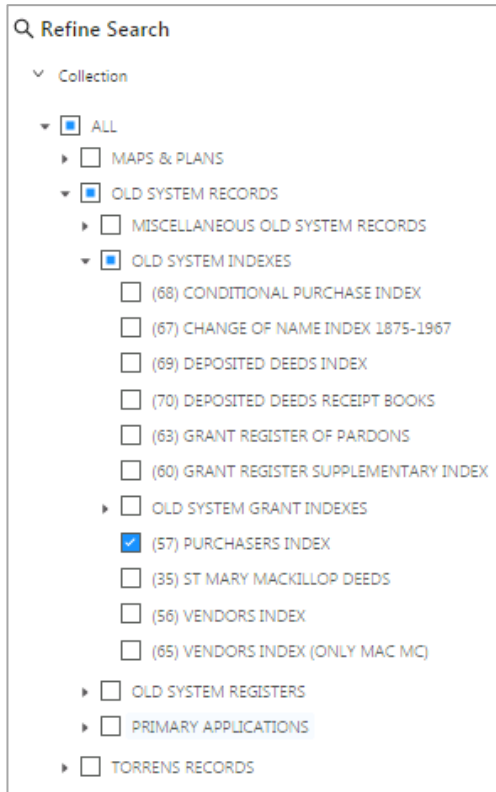The Old System Purchasers Index is also compiled in chronological order. The index contains details of:

- the type of deed
- the book and number of the deed
- a brief description of the property.

While the Old System Purchasers Index is compiled from the Vendors Index, it is not as complete as it only contains references to the owners of land and not the vendors in the deed.

Accessing the Old System Purchasers Index in the HLRV

To access the Old System Vendors Index in the HLRV:

1. Select the Old System Purchasers Index from the '**Old System Records**', '**Old System Indexes**' collection in the HLRV collections tree.

2. In the top search bar, select **'Keyword'** and enter the first two letters of the surname you are searching for in the 'search' box. Initials 'BR' are used in this example.
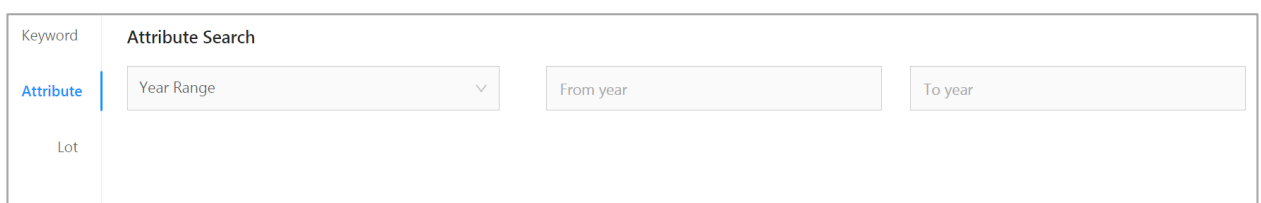

3. Each volume of the Old System Purchasers Index (1896-1899) and subsequent years for all surnames beginning with 'BR's delivered. Select any of the **search results** to open and view the Index record.

4. You can further refine the search results by performing an **'Attribute'** search using **'Year Range'** and entering the known year range of purchase.

Finding a purchaser name in the Purchasers Index

Entries in the Old System Purchasers Index prior to 1908 are in alphabetical order of surname. After 1908 entries were indexed in alphabetical order by the surname and the first name.

This example shows Elijah Bradbery purchased 3 acres, 23 and 1/5 perches in the parish of Dungog, County of Durham. The Old System reference to the deed is Book 961 No. 943.
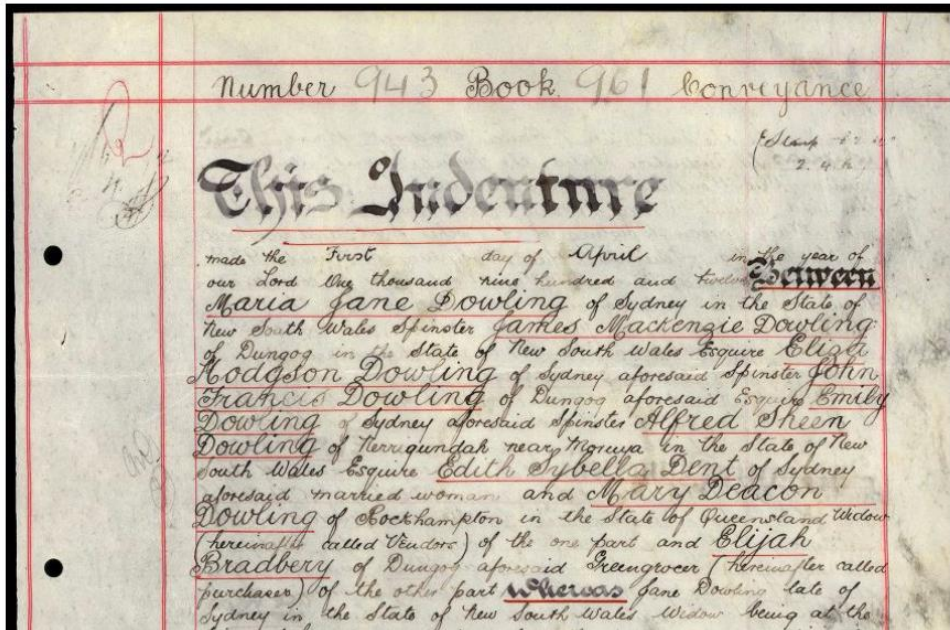

Accessing The General Register of Deeds (Old System deeds) in the HLRV

You can access The General Register Deeds (Old System deeds) from the 'Old System Records', 'Old System Registers' collection in the HLRV.

Using Book 961 No. 943 from the earlier example, search by 'Attribute', 'Book and Number' using the format 961-43.

As the following record image shows, Book 961 number 943 is a Conveyance of the 3 acres, 23 and 1/5 perches in the parish of Dungog, County of Durham land in which Elijah Bradbery is party to as purchaser.

The Old System Purchasers Index lists information up until 1985. Old System Purchasers Index Information from 1986 and copies of Old System Deeds are available to purchase through NSW LRS authorised Information Brokers or in person at NSW Land Registry Services.

More information and searching support

For more information on the Old System Purchasers Index, see our Old System Information and Search Guide.

Further assistance with family and local historical searching can be sought from:

NSW State Archives and Records – www.records.nsw.gov.au

State Library of NSW – www.sl.nsw.gov.au