

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

Land and Property Information (LPI) digitised the Old System Vendors Index as part of a program to conserve and provide better access to land records. The online Old System Vendors Index provides records from 1825 to 1986.

You can access these records through the Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) in the Spatial Information Exchange (SIX) website [www.six.nsw.gov.au](http://www.six.nsw.gov.au).

Copies of Old System deeds are available to order and purchase through LPI authorised information brokers – see LPI website for listing [www.lpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lpi.nsw.gov.au), through the LPI Online Shop <http://shop.lpi.nsw.gov.au> using the **Deed Image** option, or at LPI Queens Square, Sydney.

## What is the Old System Vendors Index?

Since the registration of the first grant of Crown land in February 1792 until the introduction of the Torrens Title System in 1863, land ownership in NSW was based on the English common law system of title known as Old System.

To offer land holders some degree of confidence in their transactions, a system of registration was introduced in 1802.

The *Registration of Deeds Act 1825* established a General Register of Deeds for recording all transactions with land. The operative index for these registrations is called the Vendors Index.

The Old System Vendors Index is a manual index of persons conveying an estate or interest in land from 1825 to 1986. Pre 1825 transactions were recorded in the Old Register 1 to 9 (1802 – 1824).

The Old System Vendors Index from 1825 – 1986 is available on public terminals at LPI, Queens Square, Sydney and online through the HLRV.

Old System Vendors Index information from 1987 can be accessed electronically through LPI authorised information brokers – see LPI website for listing [www.lpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lpi.nsw.gov.au), through the LPI Online Shop <http://shop.lpi.nsw.gov.au> using the **Deed Name Search** option, or at LPI Queens Square, Sydney.

Initially, deed particulars were registered and indexed in large bound books which commenced on 12 December 1825 with Book A.

The deeds were numbered serially so that A-257 means Book A, Number 257.

This unique reference enables you to easily locate the deed in the General Register of Deeds.

The numeric series of cataloguing commenced 7 May 1842 with Book 1.

## Old System Vendors Index entries

Entries in the Old System Vendors Index pre 1 January 1898 are in alphabetical order by surname only. After 1 January 1898 entries were indexed in alphabetical order by the surname and the first name.

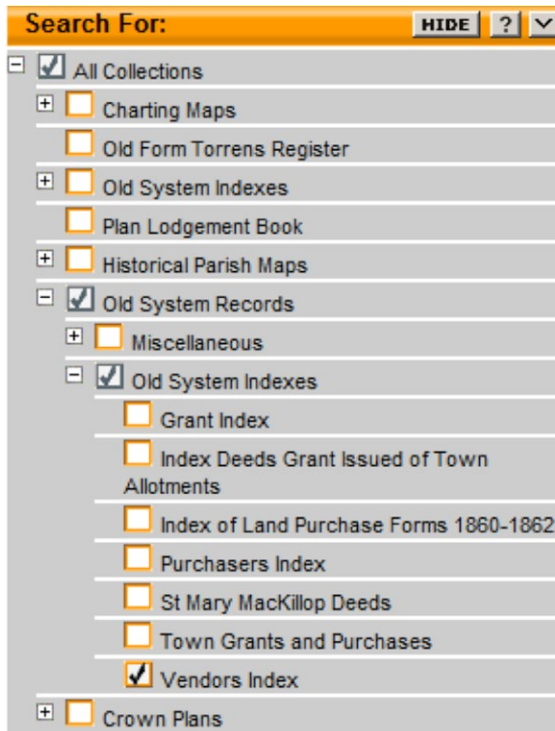
Entries are made in the Old System Vendors Index under the name(s) of all persons granting or conveying an estate or interest in land.

The Index contains details of:

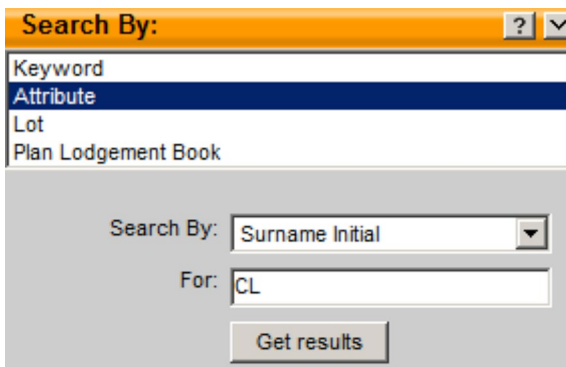
- names of the parties to the deed e.g. the Vendors and the Purchasers
- the type of deed
- the reference to the registered deed as a book and number
- a brief description of the property.

## How to access the Old System Vendors Index in the HLRV

You can access the Old System Vendors Index from the Old System Records collection in the HLRV.



To search the Old System Vendors Index select **Attribute** in the **Search By** window and search by the first two letters of the **Surname Initial**.



The first two letters 'CL' of the surname used in this example

Collection	Image Type	Date Range	Surname Initial	Index	Image name
Old System Indexes	Vendors Index	1825-1848	CK, CJ, CI, CL, CH	*	1825-1848 CH-CL
Old System Indexes	Vendors Index	1825-1848	CL	*	1825-1848 CL
Old System Indexes	Vendors Index	1825-1848	CO, CM, CL, CN	*	1825-1848 CL-CO
Old System Indexes	Vendors Index	1848-1857	CJ, CK, CL, CI	*	1848-1857 CL-CL
Old System Indexes	Vendors Index	1848-1857	CL	*	1848-1857 CL
Old System Indexes	Vendors Index	1848-1857	CO, CM, CL, CN	*	1848-1857 CL-CO
Old System Indexes	Vendors Index	1857-1864	CJ, CI, CL, CK, CH	*	1857-1864 CH-CL
Old System Indexes	Vendors Index	1857-1864	CL	*	1857-1864 CL
Old System Indexes	Vendors Index	1864-1868	CH, CK, CL, CJ, CI	*	1864-1868 CH-CL
Old System Indexes	Vendors Index	1864-1868	CL	*	1864-1868 CL

Each volume of the Old System Vendors Index 1825-1848 and subsequent years for surnames beginning with 'CL' is delivered.

Select any of the search results to open and view the Old System Vendors Index record.

You can change the order of the search results by clicking on the attribute heading e.g. to change the order of the dates click on the **Date Range** heading and the results will be resorted.

By looking up a surname and year range in the Old System Vendors Index you can find a reference to a deed.

## Finding a vendor name in the Old System Vendors Index

Entries in the Old System Vendors Index pre 1 January 1898 are in alphabetical order by surname only. After 1 January 1898 entries were indexed in alphabetical order by surname and first name.

If you find several entries and multiple pages under the same first and surname you will need to use the area and location of the land to narrow your choices for the correct deed.

### Tips

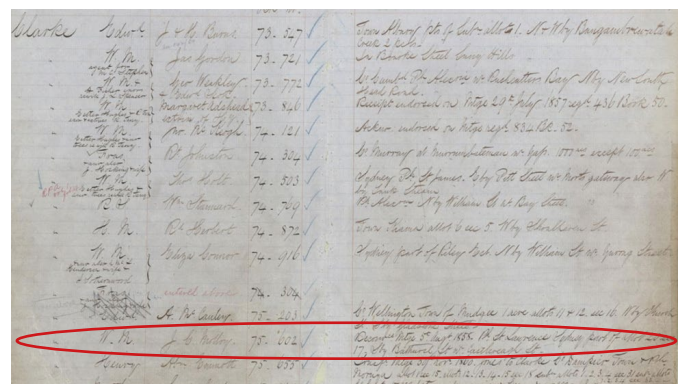
When you open and view a record there may be a number of images. To find the purchaser you are looking for scroll through the images using the forward arrow or backward arrow or skip forward by typing the page number.



Use left or right arrows to go through the pages of results or use drop down arrow to display pages.



Use bottom right arrow to take you back to the search results.

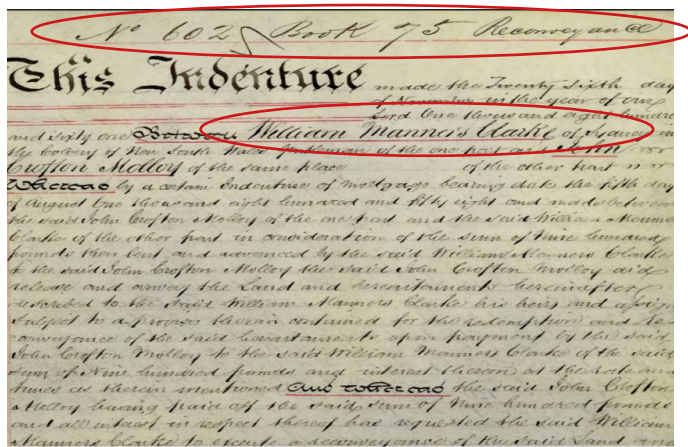


Old System Vendors Index record

This example shows that William Manners Clarke conveyed an interest to John G. Molloy of a property in the Parish of St Lawrence Sydney. The property is part of allotment 20 section 17, south by Bathurst Street west by Castlereagh Street.

In this instance the deed referred to in the image is a reconveyance dated 26 November 1861. This reconveyance is a partial discharge of a mortgage affecting the property in the Parish of St Lawrence Sydney part of allotment 20 section 17, and south by Bathurst Street west by Castlereagh Street.

The Old System reference to the deed is Book 75 No. 602. Deeds are available to view or purchase at LPI, Queens Square, Sydney or you can purchase through LPI authorised information brokers – see LPI website for listing [www.lpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lpi.nsw.gov.au), at LPI, Queens Square, Sydney or through the LPI Online Shop <http://shop.lpi.nsw.gov.au> using the **Deed Image** option.



Extract of Old System deed Bk 75 No. 602

The extract of the Old System Deed Book 75 No. 602 shows that William Manners Clarke advanced £900 to John Grafton Molloy on 5 August 1858 and a reconveyance (a partial discharge of mortgage) was dated 26 November 1861.

The Old System Vendors Index contains information up until 1986. Old System Vendors Index information from 1987 can be accessed through LPI authorised information brokers – see LPI website for listing [www.lpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lpi.nsw.gov.au), through the LPI Online Shop <http://shop.lpi.nsw.gov.au> using the **Deed Name Search** option, or at LPI Queens Square, Sydney.

## More information

For information on the Old System Vendors Index see the *Old System Information and Search Guide* and other search guides on the LPI website [www.lpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lpi.nsw.gov.au).

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

### State Records

The Western Sydney Records Centre (WSRC)  
143 O'Connell Street  
Kingswood (original archives and microform)  
[www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)

### State Library of NSW

Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000  
[www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)