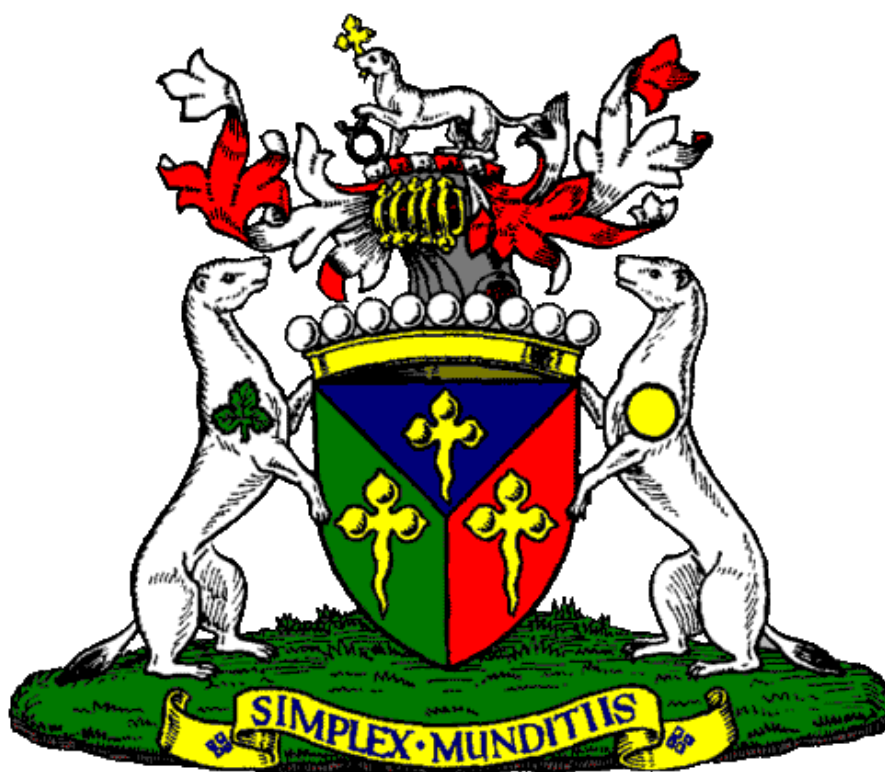


**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
VISCOUNT GAVIN TURNBULL SIMONDS  
OF SPARSHOLT**

**1881 - 1971**



**Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain  
1951-1954**



**Gavin Turnbull**

**The first and last Viscount Simonds of Sparsholt**

**1881 - 1971**

Portrait by Sir Gerald Kelly PRA

Hangs in the 'Bencher's Drawing Room' Lincoln's Inn

**Gavin Turnbull Simonds**  
**The first and last Viscount Simonds of Sparsholt**  
**1881 - 1971**



Towards the end of his long and most distinguished life, my Uncle Gavin wrote a very private autobiography under the title "Random Recollections of an Idle Old Man", of which I hold a copy. Another is held in the library at New College Oxford, for reference. He was emphatic that it should not be published and it's quite a long read, with countless references to the great and the good of his lifetime, many of whom will have faded from the memories of current readers, even if old enough to have heard of them in earlier years. To keep alive his memory and to ensure that future generations know what a fantastic man he was, I have extracted from "Random Recollections" a short, hopefully readable, account of his remarkable life and achievements. In this I have been aided and abetted by Pat Malley, who was the nearest to a daughter that any couple could have wished for. Do read it and remember him. Should you like to see where all the family were born and brought up, The Point, named after the house on Long Island where his father was brought up, on the Bath Road on the western edge of Reading, is now The Gate House Hotel. Eric, Gavin, Louise (Hare), Jack (k.i.a. 1917) and Harry were all born and brought up there, until they moved to Audleys Wood in 1900. The Audleys Wood Hotel, 1½ miles from Basingstoke on the Alton Road (A339 and very dangerous) is now three times the size it was in our day. It's typical of its time - a brick built mansion of 1870, built by Sir George Bradshaw of the Railway timetable fame - now sensitively expanded - retaining much of the character of the ground floor of the house we knew and loved. It's not far from Sutton Scotney and I am in the process of giving family lunch parties there and always enjoy going back.

Kenneth Simonds

4 New Court

Sutton Scotney

Winchester

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "K. Simonds".

August 2005

Gavin Simonds was born in November 1881, the second son of Louis de Luze Simonds and Mary Elizabeth Turnbull, his wife, his elder brother, Frederick Adolphus (Eric) having been born in January of the same year. Louis de Luze was born and bred in America and had returned to England as a young man to join the family Brewery in Reading.

The first family home, where the family were born, was 'The Point', on the Bath Road, Reading, on what was then the western outskirts of the town, and it stands there today as a hotel. Louis had an uncle, Henry Adolphus Simonds, a widower with no children, who effectively 'adopted' Eric, Gavin and their three siblings, Louise, Jack and Harry. Gavin showed early signs of scholastic brilliance and was sent to Summerfields, a preparatory school at Oxford, with a view to his getting a scholarship to Winchester and this he achieved in 1894.

His great uncle, Henry Adolphus aforesaid, had a fine country home at Red Rice, Abbots Anne, near Andover, and there the boys learned the sporting arts of fishing and shooting in their holidays until, in 1900, it was decided that the two families should join forces and his parents bought Audleys Wood, near Basingstoke on the Alton Road, where they all moved in.



Audleys Wood

Meantime, Gavin had excelled himself at Winchester both academically and in sport, and began a lifelong devotion to the school. He was made a Fellow of Winchester in 1933, Warden in 1946, followed by High Steward of the City in 1951 and was given the Freedom of the City of Winchester in 1963.

He matriculated as an Exhibitioner of New College, Oxford, in 1900 and following a first class in Classical Moderations in 1902, he achieved a first in Literae Humaniores in 1904. His sporting career was no less distinguished and playing tennis with his friend Geoffrey Smith, he won the Varsity Doubles.

Having opted for a career at the Bar, he found a sponsor for Lincoln's Inn and began to eat his dinners at the Inn during his third year at Oxford and was called to the Bar in 1906. His early years at the Bar were most unhappy. With no legal connections (and the background of a Berkshire Brewery was no help at all) it was an uphill struggle, only relieved when there came to live in a village near Audleys Wood, Mr Frank Mellor, K.C., son of a distinguished judge of the Queen's Bench, and his wife and two daughters. This connection bore fruit both in a modestly enhanced legal career and his marriage to Frank Mellor's daughter, Mary Hope, in 1912. They



found a home in Pimlico but work continued to come slowly and the death of their first-born son within a year of his birth was a great sorrow.



Lady Simonds  
Née Mary Hope Mellor  
at the Coronation 1953

At the outbreak of war in 1914, he was rising 33 and as a married man was unlikely to be called up and so he became a Special Constable, but soon thereafter joined the Reserve Territorial Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, in which his elder brother Eric had served in the Boer War. They trained in several locations in England until the spring of 1916, when they were about to go to France, but Gavin was laid low by a severe attack of diphtheria and the Battalion went without him. He was gravely ill and spent many weeks in an isolation hospital at Tidworth and eventually was invalided out with a supposed severe heart condition.



Audleys Wood  
The conservatory 1905

Gavin  
Youngest brother Harry,  
sister Louise, his mother  
and two others

Meanwhile, in August 1915, Mary had given birth to twin sons, Gavin and John, and during his wait for another posting they lived either with his parents at Audleys Wood or with hers in Knutsford, Cheshire, until, following his recovery, they took a house at Weybridge from which he travelled to work in London.

Professionally, things now started to go better and he worked for a time in the Treasury Solicitor's office until, in late 1917, he returned to his old chambers in Lincoln's Inn where he joined the eminent Austen Cartmell, who, as Crown Counsel was overwhelmed with work. Gavin was further given a number of briefs in the Prize Court by his wife's cousin, Sir John Mellor, and these brought him into contact with Gordon Hewart, later Lord Chief Justice of England. For Gavin, the immediate post-war years became both busy and profitable, to the point when, in 1924 at the age of 42, he took Silk.

By now the twins at 9, were old enough to go to preparatory school and started a 4 year stint at Horris Hill near Newbury. And the old family home in Pimlico had been changed for 12 Ormonde Gate, Chelsea, which, with Gavin's much improved income, had become affordable, and was conveniently close to Chelsea Gardens, and in 1929 he bought The Deane House, Sparsholt, near Winchester.

He found work in the Privy Council to be a considerable and most enjoyable part of his life at the Bar until, in 1937 he was appointed a Judge of the High Court by Lord Chancellor Hailsham. This involved a large sacrifice of income but he regarded it as the duty of a barrister who is chosen for this high office to accept it, and when he went to Buckingham Palace to receive his Knighthood he was the first in the new reign of King George VI to be thus honoured.

For his leisure, he enjoyed both shooting and fishing which, whenever possible, he shared with the twins. He had shot at both Red Rice and Audleys Wood, and came rather later to fishing which became his greatest pleasure, especially the Hampshire chalk streams where he received much hospitality after giving up his own beat on the Itchen.



The River Test

But in June 1961 he collapsed with a coronary at a fishing hut on the Test, which put him out of action for many months, whilst in the company of Lord Dilhorne (previously Sir Reginald Manningham-Buller who later succeeded him on the Woolsack), and from which ultimately he made a good recovery.

Meanwhile, the twins left Winchester, Gavin to New College, Oxford, and John to Magdalene, Cambridge. Gavin suffered severe injuries from a light aircraft crash not long before his finals

which he was unfit to take, whilst John got a good degree, immersed himself in politics and became President of the Union. They both read law in Chambers and at the outbreak of war in 1939 Gavin joined the Inns of Court Regiment and was commissioned in the Wiltshire Yeomary, whilst John was commissioned in the South Staffordshire Regiment. Tragically both twins predeceased their parents. John joined the Parachute Regiment, was dropped in error into the sea in the attack on Sicily and was mercifully saved, but subsequently was killed in the great and disastrous airborne battle of Arnhem. Gavin served extensively in the Middle East and elsewhere, including the battle of El Alamein, but was eventually invalided home and remained in frail health until his death in 1951.

Meanwhile, in the early stages of the war, when there was urgent need for the production of arms and ammunitions, there was concern that this might be prejudiced by industrial unrest and strikes.

A National Arbitration Tribunal was set up to forestall industrial disputes and Gavin was appointed the first President, a post he held until 1944. Years later, a Labour leader told him that 'he was the justest man he had ever known'. Inevitably, the calls on his time made by the Tribunal (and during his time it settled over 500 disputes) left him as only a half-time judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court.

However, in 1944 a call from Downing Street advised him of his appointment as a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary (a double promotion which by-passed the Court of Appeal) and he was duly sworn of the Privy Council and introduced to the House of Lords as Lord Simonds of Sparsholt. It was at this time too that he was made Warden of Winchester College, a five year term which gave him the greatest pleasure. It was something of a part-time and honorary appointment which fitted well with their home in Sparsholt. And in 1951 he became Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn, a demanding post in his busy life, but one which left behind a fine portrait of him by Sir Gerald Kelly, P.R.A., in the robes of Lord Chancellor to which he was subsequently appointed. And at about this time he was further appointed High Steward of the City of Winchester.

The October 1951 election brought back a Conservative Government after six years, with Winston Churchill again in control and no obvious candidate for the Woolsack. Despite having always distanced himself from politics, Gavin, who barely knew Churchill, was sent for and offered the job, at the age of nearly 70.



Gavin Simonds, Clementine  
&  
Winston Churchill  
1953

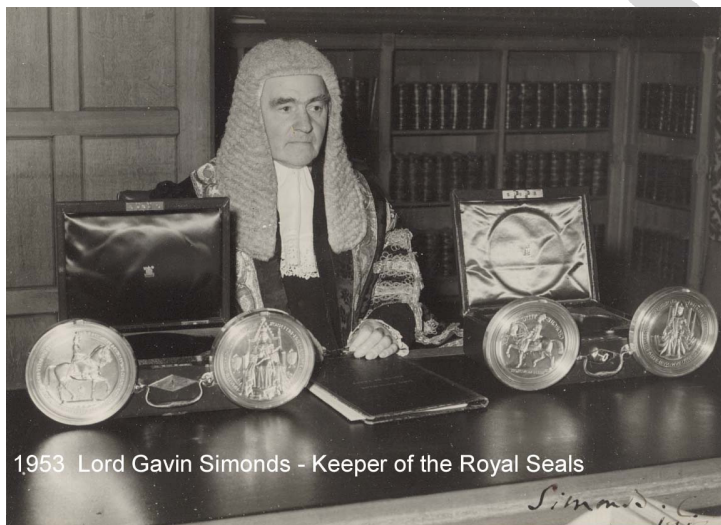
He was given little option but to accept and thus faced an entirely new life, new home, and new colleagues in the great world of politics. That evening he and Mary were giving a dinner party at their apartment for the Australian counsel, Douglas Menzies and Garfield Barwick of Rhodesia,



who had come over to argue an appeal in the Privy Council (and who both subsequently achieved high office). Kenneth Simonds was there too and recalls vividly the excitement of the evening. Next day Gavin went to the Palace to receive the Great Seal and Kiss Hands on his appointment.

All of this Mary accepted willingly, at an age not greatly less than his. He started with the advantage of having as the Chancellor's Permanent Secretary, his old and much loved friend Sir Albert Napier who had held the job already for 7 years and had as his deputy, George Coldstream, with Charles Rankin and Pat Malley in support, all of whom became close friends. He was revered and respected by the legal officers working in the Department - a rare opportunity to serve a Lord Chancellor of powerful intellect, stature and consummate knowledge of the law. He swiftly gained their admiration and loyalty.

The custody of the Great Seal is the responsibility of the Lord Chancellor. Originally, on State occasions, it was carried by the Purse Bearer in a Purse magnificently embroidered with the Royal Arms. However, because of its great weight it is no longer carried but remains in its safe and secret store. It is in two halves, massively cast in silver, six inches in diameter; the present Great Seal weighs approximately 18 pounds. One side depicts the Monarch enthroned and the other the Monarch on horseback, and it has been in this format since the Conqueror, except, it is alleged, in the case of Queen Anne whose figure was not so good on a horse. Thus on the death of a Monarch, a new seal is cast and its predecessor defaced, and, on occasion during a reign, a more up-to-date portrayal of the Monarch is substituted for the original youthful version. In the reign of Victoria this happened on three occasions. The illustration below is of the early version showing Queen Elizabeth II in her youth.



1953 Lord Gavin Simonds - Keeper of the Royal Seals

The seals of King George VI  
and  
Queen Elisabeth II

The ceremony of defacement takes place in the Privy Council. At the defacement of the old seal of King George VI (which took place at Buckingham Palace on the 1st August 1953) at which Gavin was present, a silver hammer was placed in the royal hand and Her Majesty struck it. But her first shot produced no visible result, so she tried again, but again without success. 'Stand back' she commanded and dealt it a right royal blow. This worked well and left a clear mark on the silver original, enough to make it unusable ever again.

The old, defaced, seal becomes the property of the holder of the office on the Monarch's death, and Gavin bequeathed it to his eponymous great-nephew, in whose charge it remains. The Great Seal is used on major state documents and on Letters Patent for Bishops and Peers, the former in red and the latter in green.



But the Lord Chancellorship involved a very different life, in which the judicial work to which he had so long been accustomed was greatly reduced and the Cabinet and politics demanded much of his time. Politically he was greatly helped by his friend Lord Salisbury being Leader of the House of Lords and ever ready with advice. On the domestic front, Gavin and Mary had to move to the Lord Chancellor's parliamentary residence in the House of Lords - a major undertaking for them both.

Early in 1952 King George VI died suddenly, and Gavin it was who had to convey personally to the Queen Mother and to Queen Mary the resolutions of sympathy passed by the House of Lords - a great ordeal at a time of great sorrow.

On his new appointment Gavin was promoted from a life to a hereditary peerage, a sad moment for him and Mary with no one left to inherit.

The legislative task was immense and the majority in the Commons small but with the unfailing support of the greatest in the land he steered a wise and careful political course through the events of the next three years. Of these, the most demanding was undoubtedly the Coronation in 1953. For a start, Gavin chaired the Commissioners who were charged with the acceptance or rejection of the many varied (and many fanciful) claims for participation and the rendering of services at the ceremony and its attendant rites, and this included the allocation of seats in Westminster Abbey for many classes of participants.



Andrew Parker-Bowles  
Page

Purse Bearer  
Mr Tom Cokayne

Preparations and rehearsals were long and arduous, with precise timing essential. The day itself started very early and must have been an emotional and exhausting affair for everyone, and was discharged to perfection. One consequence was the decision of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury to put a window in the Cathedral in commemoration, and today visitors can see Gavin portrayed (and distinctively so as the only wearer of a wig) in the Beckett Chapel, in stained glass.



Top window, from the left:

- Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher
- The Queen
- Prince Philip
- Gavin

Bottom window:

- Princess Elisabeth
- George VI
- Queen Mary
- Princess Margaret (Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother)

Other honours came his way in profusion - Professor of Law at the Royal Academy - Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists - Honorary Fellow of New College - Honorary D.Litt: at the University of Reading, his old home town - Doctor of Civil Law, *honoris causa*, at Oxford and High Steward of the University.

Inevitably all this imposed an immense burden in preparing and making speeches, often in honour of foreign dignitaries and on the widest range of subjects, and all within the execution of his many official duties in the House of Lords. He was the principal authority on all legal appointments - Judges, KCs, the Law Officers of the Crown, Justices of the Peace and many other tribunals, and, when the need arose, for their dismissal. Ecclesiastically his patronage was vast with 500 livings in his gift. State banquets, formal luncheons at Guildhall, Mansion House, Lancaster House and elsewhere came in profusion, all demanding his participation as well as his presence. Scotland had to be included; and they had especially happy memories of a small weekend party at Windsor.

Then in the late summer and autumn of 1953 came a visit to Canada and America. In the course of their crossing in the Queen Elizabeth came the news of the death of his elder brother Eric which was a great shock, but his American cousin Henry Simonds, 'Gramp' to us all, became his guide and friend and he met many of his American relations both in New York and Boston. Gavin's father Louis de Luze had been born and brought up in the U.S.A.



Gavin & Mary with the  
American Family

Cohasset Ma.  
1953

At a Convention of the American Bar Association his was the principal speech to 1500 diners, and there were numerous other such occasions prior to their visit to Canada, the great feature of which was a dinner of the Canadian Bar Convention, in the presence of Vincent Massey, the Governor General, and a huge company, and the bestowal of another honour by the Université Laval. From Quebec they went to Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto with a very full programme at each. Then it was back to New York, with a little time for sight-seeing, and home again on the Queen Mary.

Now 72, the pressure of the Lord Chancellor's office was immense. There was no set term of office, but a number of his predecessors had looked on three years as long enough and Gavin was older than many of them, and when Churchill enquired in 1954 about his intentions, knowing that Sir David Maxwell Fyfe - an eminent and experienced lawyer and politician - was keen to have the job, he resigned that autumn and was re-appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, a much less onerous job and free of the pressures of politics.



Gavin & Mary  
at a family wedding

St Paul's Knightsbridge  
1953



And so, at 73, with no age restriction on his tenure of office, and now promoted to a Viscountcy, he could apply his mind once more to his judicial work, and to undertake, at the request of the publishers, the general editorship of the Third Edition of that monumental standard work, Halsbury's Laws of England, which he reckoned to be an agreeable occupation for retired old age.



At The Deane  
House Sparsholt  
1960

Mary and he had sold The Deane House at Sparsholt in 1962 and their principal home became the apartment they took opposite Hyde Park, but in the following year he was delighted to be admitted a Freeman of the City of Winchester which maintained the connections he valued so much and which coincided with his resignation as a Fellow of Winchester College after a tenure of nearly 30 years, five of these as Warden.

And so, in his old age he was able to find time both to write his Recollections and spend more time in taking part in the proceedings of the House of Lords whenever he wished, and to enjoy the countryside with its shooting and fishing whenever he could.

His health remained a problem and in 1961 he was to have celebrated his 80th birthday, at the invitation of Lord Rank with a shooting party of his own friends on the Sutton Manor Estate, near Winchester (now part of the old folks complex, in a small corner of which Kenneth Simonds lives today - 2005). But sadly it was not to be, as one June day when fishing the Test he utterly collapsed. A doctor and ambulance were found, a coronary thrombosis was diagnosed and the rest of the summer passed spent mostly in bed and in slow recuperation.

Back in London in October and back to work again, but it had become clear that he should not go on much longer and finally resigned in March 1962, having completed 25 years on the Bench. This coincided with their Golden Wedding which was celebrated with a large dinner party followed, the next day, by an even larger cocktail party.

Having sold their home at Sparsholt, the Winchester connection had become slim and he was much gratified in June 1963 to be admitted a Freeman of that City in a fine ceremony in the



Guildhall. And so he continued in a quieter London life in the course of which he wrote his Recollections (which are the essential basis of this essay) and assumed Chairmanship of the Peabody Trust, which does so much good work for the homeless, and continued his attendance at the House of Lords, and life slowed down gradually until his death in June 1971 at the age of 89, to be followed not long after by his beloved Mary.

His memorial service held on the 29th July 1971 at St.Margaret's, Westminster, included readings by the Master of the Rolls (Lord Denning) and by nephew Duncan Simonds, an Address by the Lord Chief Justice (Lord Widgery) and a final blessing by Archbishop Lord Fisher. The Lord Chancellor (Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone son of Lord Chancellor Hailsham who had appointed him a High Court Judge in 1937) headed a large congregation of judicial and legal colleagues, family and many friends.

And thus ended a life of the highest distinction and of wholly remarkable achievement. It encompassed the highest legal office in the land, a mastery of politics acquired very late in life and great academic attainment. His fine presence, fastidious command of English, profound scholarship and mastership of the law were all deployed in the service of his country and his range of friendships included deep admirers of many origins. Coupled with this was his great love of the country and of country sports and a wide range of other and diverse interests. He was indeed a great Lawyer, a great Wykehamist and a great Gentleman.

Kenneth Fitzgerald Simonds  
4 New Court  
Sutton Scotney

August 2005



Kenneth Simonds

23<sup>rd</sup> February 1920 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2006

1990

## Gavin's Honours and Awards

1894	Scholar of Winchester College
1900	Exhibitioner, New College, Oxford
1902	1st class Mods.
1904	1st class Lit.Hum.
1906	Called to the Bar
1924	Took Silk (Kings Counsel)
1929	Bencher, Lincoln's Inn
1933	Co-opted a Fellow of Winchester College
1937	Appointed a High Court Judge
1937	Knighted - the first Knight of the reign of King George VI
1940s	Chairman of the Athenaeum Club
1940-44	First President of the National Arbitration Tribunal
1944	Appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary (thereby missing the junior appointment to the Court of Appeal) and a Privy Councillor
1944	Honorary Fellow of New College, Oxford
1944	Honorary Doctor of Letters of the University of Reading
1946-51	Warden of Winchester College
1949	Welcomed to Winchester 'ad portas'
1950s	Governor of the Peabody Donation Fund
	Member of the Royal Commission for the 1951 Exhibition
	Member of the Beit Memorial Fund and Kitchener Memorial Fund
1951	Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn
1951	Appointed Professor of Law at the Royal Academy
1951-54	Lord High Chancellor
1951	In the King's absence, through illness, read the King's Speech at the Opening of Parliament
1952/53	On the death of King George VI, he personally conveyed messages of sympathy to The Queen and The Queen Mother
	He presided over the Court of Claims before the Coronation.
1953	2 <sup>nd</sup> of June, Coronation Day.
1952-67	High Steward of Winchester City
1953	Docteur en Droit of the Université Laval, Quebec
1954 - 67	High Steward of Oxford University
1954	Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
1954	Honorary DCL Oxford University
1954	After three years on the Woolsack and at the age of nearly 74, he resigned the Lord Chancellorship and was created Viscount Simonds of Sparsholt
1963	Resigned his Fellowship of Winchester College
1963	Admitted 'Freeman of the City of Winchester'

*Before the Service there shall be played on the organ*  
 CHORALE PRELUDES ... .. J. S. Bach

## ORDER OF MEMORIAL SERVICE

*The following Introduction shall be said,*  
 by THE REVEREND CHARLES DAY,

*all standing*

'They are thine, O Lord, thou lover of souls'  
 Wisdom xi, 26

WE give them back to thee, dear Lord, who gavest them to us.  
 Yet, as thou dost not lose them in giving so we have not lost them by their return. Not as the world gives, givest thou, O lover of souls. What thou gavest thou takest not away, for what is thine is ours always if we are thine. And life is eternal, and love is immortal, and death is only an horizon, and an horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight. Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further. Cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly. Draw us closer to thyself, that we may know ourselves nearer to our beloved who are with thee. And while thou dost prepare a place for us, prepare us for that happy place, that where they are and thou art, we too may be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Then, all kneeling, shall be said as follows :—*

- V. The Lord our God be with us.  
 R. As He was with our fathers.  
 Let us pray.

THE RT. HON.  
 VISCOUNT SIMONDS OF SPARSHOLT

## Memorial Service

St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, S.W.1  
 on Thursday, 29th July 1971  
 at 4.30 p.m.

OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not  
into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

V. O Lord, deal not with us after our sins.  
R. Neither reward us after our iniquities.  
V. O God, make speed to save us.  
R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Then, all standing, shall be sung the Psalm following:—*

PSALM XV (*Domine, quis habitabit*)

LORD, who shall dwell in thy tabernacle: or who shall rest upon  
thy holy hill?

Even he, that leadeth an uncorrupt life: and doeth the thing  
which is right, and speaketh the truth from his heart.

He that hath used no deceit in his tongue, nor done evil to his  
neighbour: and hath not slandered his neighbour.

He that setteth not by himself, but is lowly in his own eyes:  
and maketh much of them that fear the Lord.

He that sweareth unto his neighbour, and disappointeth him  
not: though it were to his own hindrance.

He that hath not given his money upon usury: nor taken  
reward against the innocent.

Whoso doeth these things: shall never fall.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world  
withoutend. Amen.

*Then shall follow the First Lesson:*

Proverbs iii 13-26 and iv 7

Read by THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS

*Then shall be sung*

A HYMN

THE King of love my Shepherd is  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow  
My ransom'd soul he leadeth,  
And, where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I stray'd,  
But yet in love he sought me,  
And on his shoulder gently laid,  
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy Cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a Table in my sight;  
Thy Union grace bestoweth:  
And oh, what transport of delight  
From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never:  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
Within thy house for ever.

*Then shall follow the Second Lesson*

Romans xii 6-18

Read by Mr. E. DUNCAN SIMONDS

*Then the Choir shall sing:*

NUNC DIMITTIS ... .. *Stanford in G*

An Address by

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF ENGLAND



*Then, all standing, the Rector of St Margaret's shall say,*

**I HEARD** a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Write. From henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord: even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labours.

*Then, all kneeling, shall be said,*

**REMEMBER** for good, we beseech thee, O GOD, our brother  
GAVIN TURNBULL SIMONDS  
a Bencher of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn  
now departed this life.

**O** MERCIFUL God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life; in whom whosoever believeth shall live, though he die; and whosoever liveth, and believeth in him, shall not die eternally; who also hath taught us, by his holy Apostle Saint Paul, not to be sorry, as men without hope, for them that sleep in him; We meekly beseech thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness; that, when we shall depart this life, we may rest in him, as our hope is this our brother doth; and that, at the general Resurrection in the last day we may be found acceptable in thy sight; and receive that blessing which thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce to all that love and fear him, saying, Come, ye blessed children of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world: Grant this, we beseech thee, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

**O** FATHER of all, we pray to thee for those whom we love, but see no longer. Grant them thy peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in thy loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of thy perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**ALMIGHTY** God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort; Deal graciously, we pray thee, with those who mourn, that casting every care on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**GRANT**, O Lord, that we may all use this time of work while it is called to-day, remembering gladly and thankfully those who have gone before, who have stood by us and helped us in past days, who have cheered us by their sympathy and strengthened us by their example; that when the time of our departure hence shall come, we may rest with them in peace, and with them be found worthy of the resurrection to eternal life which thou hast promised to thy children through Jesus Christ, in whose life we live. Amen.

**O** LORD, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shades lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work done. Then, Lord, in thy mercy grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Then shall be sung*

#### A HYMN

**NOW** thank we all our God,  
With heart and hands, and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In Whom his world rejoices;  
Who from our mother's arms  
Hath bless'd us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in his grace,  
And guide us when perplex'd,  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
 The Father now be given,  
 The Son, and Him who reigns  
 With them in highest heaven,  
 The one eternal God,  
 Whom earth and heav'n adore,  
 For thus it was, is now,  
 And shall be evermore.

*Then, all kneeling shall be said*

by ARCHBISHOP LORD FISHER OF LAMBETH

**TEACH** us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest; to give  
 and not to count the cost; to fight, and not to heed the  
 wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour, and not to ask  
 for any reward, save that of knowing that we do thy will; through  
 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**BRING** us, O Lord God, at our last awakening, into the house  
 and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that  
 house where there shall be no darkness or dazzling, but one equal  
 light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes,  
 but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal  
 eternity; in the habitations of thy glory and dominion, world  
 without end. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

*After the Service shall be played on the organ :—*

PRELUDE AND FUGUE IN B MINOR ... .. *J. S. Bach*

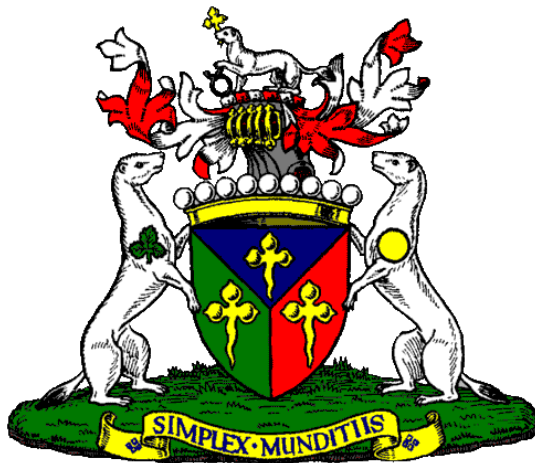
## Appendix 2 - Other images



Official Portrait

Original at the National Portrait Gallery  
London

Ref NPG x 14206



### Gavin's personal Coat of Arms

Arms: Tierced in pale azure Gules &  
Vert, three trefoil slipped or.

Crest: Ermine proper resting the  
sinister paw upon the astronomical sign  
of Taurus sable, holding in the mouth a  
trefoil slipped or.

Supporters: On either side an ermine  
proper, each charged on the shoulder,  
the dexter with a hop leaf and the  
sinister with a bezant.



### Portrait in full regalia

Showing the royal 'purse' carried for  
the 'State Opening of Parliament'.

The Lord Chancellor is the keeper of the  
Great Seal.

Originally the Great Seal was carried in  
the Purse. Now because of its great  
weight, it is no longer carried, but kept  
in its safe and secret store. [see p 5]





Gavin was appointed with Mr Justice Porter to the official enquiry into the budget leak of 1936.

The Chancellor Jim Thomas, leaked details of his budget tax increase on income tax & tea to a tea broker Sir Alfred Butt, MP, who placed a heavy bet on the outcome, which attracted suspicion.

Sallon Print  
Caricature c1954

Gavin was a caricaturist's dream with his famous bushy eyebrows



Gavin with Julia Simonds  
Wife of Henry (Gramps)

Staying with the Simonds family  
In Cohasset Ma.  
1953



### The Point

Bath Road, Reading

The family home from 1880 to 1900  
Louis de Luze Simonds settled here on his  
arrival from Long Island.

Gavin was born here, along with Frederick  
Adolphus (Eric), Louise, Jack and Harry  
The East wing was added to accommodate the  
children

Now a hotel



### RED RICE ESTATE, HAMPSHIRE

5,000 ACRES

One of the finest Shoots in the Country

OVER 4,000 PHEASANTS IN SEASON 1959-60. LARGE MAJORITY WILD BIRDS



GEORGIAN HOUSE (1740) facing south in well timbered park

FINE SUITE OF RECEPTION ROOMS. 4 PRINCIPAL SUITES OF BEDROOM, DRESSING ROOM AND BATHROOM

*Oil-fired central heating. Main electric light and power. Estate water supply (main available).*

Gardens studded with fine specimen trees, including a weeping beech. Hard tennis court. First-class walled kitchen garden of 2 acres run as a market garden. Garage and stable block with flat over. Adequate estate cottages in good condition.

HOME FARM OF 1,000 ACRES IN HAND

WOODLANDS OF 463 ACRES IN HAND

Red Rice  
Abbots Ann, near Andover,

The home of Henry Adolphus Simonds  
(The Grandpater)  
until 1900

Now a school



Audleys Wood  
Alton Road, Basingstoke.

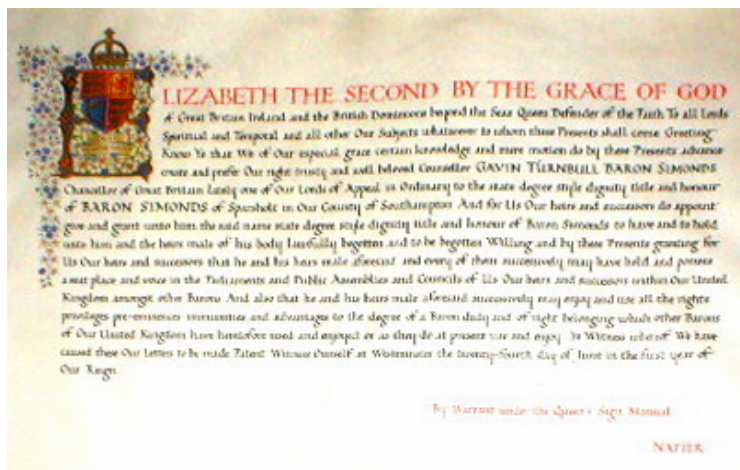
Bought as a home for the family by  
Henry A Simonds in 1900 and where  
the family remained over 50 years

Converted to a hotel in 1989

Painting by Hesketh Hubbard  
The Gt Gt Gt grandson of  
Sir Christopher Wren







Indenture scrolls marking his various appointments  
 As an Hereditary Baron, 1954      Award of a Peer's 'Supporters' to his crest, 1944



Audleys Wood 1900  
 Gavin & sister Louise

As a young man of 19  
 with his sister Louise  
  
 Louise later married John Hare

One side of the mould for the Royal  
 Seal, for which Gavin was responsible

It becomes the property of the Lord  
 Chancellor on the death of a monarch

On loan to the Victoria & Albert  
 Museum, London

