

John James Simmonds

Isle of Wight County Press 28 January 1961

FORMER NEWPORT ALDERMAN'S DEATH

CLUBMAN, COUNCILLOR AND TURF ACCOUNTANT

Mr. John James Simmonds, former alderman and deputy mayor of Newport, died suddenly at his flat over his business in Pyle Street on Thursday, aged 82.

Mr. Simmonds was the son of a former licensee of the Bugle Tap and with his first wife kept the Freemasons Tavern in Lower St. James's Street before he started his turf accountant's business 40 years ago.

He was a member of Newport Town Council for 27 years, first representing the Fairlee Ward in 1923. Between 1926 and 1933 there was a break in his period of service but he then served continuously until 1957. He was elected an alderman in 1945 and was deputy mayor in 1950. He served in turn as chairman of most of the council's committees.

Mr. Simmonds was one of the oldest members of the Conservative Club and had been president for 20 years. Much of the prosperity of the club in its premises in Pyle Street is attributed to the lead he gave in improvement schemes. His generous and open-handed nature was a by-word, and he supported many charities.

He was a good judge of cattle, and before his health failed frequently judged at the town's Gilten Market. He was a member of the Albany and Needles lodges of Freemasons. He leaves a widow and four sons.

The funeral service will be at St. Thomas's Church, Newport, on Tuesday at 10 a.m., cremation to follow at Southampton.

Isle of Wight County Press 4 February 1961

THE LATE MR. J. J. SIMMONDS

TRIBUTES TO FORMER NEWPORT ALDERMAN

The funeral of Mr. John James Simmonds, former alderman and deputy mayor of Newport, took place on Tuesday at St. Thomas's Church, where he was a worshipper and in the life of which he took a keen interest. Many organisations with which Mr. Simmonds had been associated were represented.

The Mayor (Mr. E. W. G. Hands) was accompanied by Mr. W. R. Wilks (town clerk), and also present were the deputy mayor (Ald. F. C. O. Minns), Ald. Mrs. E. R. Chandler, O.B.E., J.P.,

Ald. H. E. Harvey, Ald. A. O. Purdy, C.C., Ald. G. C. Russell, J.P., Ald. A. P. Simmonds, and members of the council, Mr. F. E. Butler, Mr. C. S. Fowler and Mr. J. S. Inglis.

Among those also present were Miss M. W. Parsons (partner), Mr. H. Wood (chief clerk) and Mr. G. Bristow (staff), of J. J. Simmonds and Co., Ltd., Mr. F. Callaway (chairman of Newport Conservative Club, of which Mr. Simmonds had been president for 20 years), members of the committee and Mr. and Mrs. J. Moody (steward and stewardess), members of Albany and Medina lodges of Freemasons, and representatives of the Fire Brigade, Cowes and Shanklin Conservative clubs, Island Sports, Ltd., Dolphin Darts Club, Barclays Bank, Brickwoods, Ltd., J. W. C. Gill, Ltd., Sir Francis Pittis and Son, F. P. Spencer and Son, Ltd., R. White, Ltd., and Messrs. Wray and Sons.

NEWPORT'S GRATITUDE

The service was conducted by the vicar (the Rev. A. P. Lumley) and the lesson was read by Mr. Frank Chiverton (lay reader). Mr. H. Lower was the organist and accompanied the hymns "The Lord's my shepherd" and "Abide with me." In a tribute, Mr. Lumley said that most of those present knew Mr. Simmonds far better than he did, and he did not propose to mention all his achievements. He did recall, however, the fact that Newport had reason to be grateful to James Simmonds for his acute business acumen which was often laid at the disposal of the Town Council. All had their own special memories, and the fact that there were so many present spoke in itself of their wish to respect his memory.

The chief mourners were Mrs. M. Simmonds (widow), Mr. C. Simmonds, Mr. and Mrs. J. Simmonds, Mr. P. Simmonds, and Mr. and Mrs. D. Simmonds (sons and daughters-in-law), Mrs. I. Cook (sister-in-law), Messrs. D. and B. Simmonds and Mrs. R. Fryer (grandchildren), Mrs. F. Whetter (niece, also representing Mrs. P. Meguyer, sister-in-law), and Captain A. Watts and Mr. F. Davies (both of Devon). Among the many floral tributes were those from Newport Conservative Club, Medina Lodge of Freemasons, London and Provincial Sporting News Agency, Brickwoods, Ltd., Miss Parsons, the staff of J. J. Simmonds and Co., Ltd., Fire Station Social Club, and Carisbrooke and District Fanciers' Society. Cremation took place at South Stoneham, Southampton. Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.

Transcription by Jeremy Hallam for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2023
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>