

Warren Peter
CLOWES
Master Pat

Warren Peter Clowes was the only child¹ of Peter Legh and Edith Emily (nee Warren) Clowes who were married in 1895 at Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire.

Warren Peter, *Master Pat*, was killed in action in France on March 30th 1918.² His Memorial Service³ Sheet states that he was born on 7th January 1898. But it does not say where.⁴

Wherever he was born, his story here in Eardisland starts in 1901:
*November, 1901,.....home-coming of Col. and Mrs. Clowes and their small son, after nearly 2 years' distinguished service in South Africa.*⁵

Many photographs of him over the following four years and a few at later dates, are extant. Included in this account are only a few, specifically dated examples.

1902



*Mrs Clowes with Warren Peter Clowes,
1902.*

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The album page from which this originates is captioned in EEC handwriting *Muirshiel Sept 02*

¹ WI Book page 23.

² Wellington Year Book, 1918, page 26, where a fully detailed account is to be found.

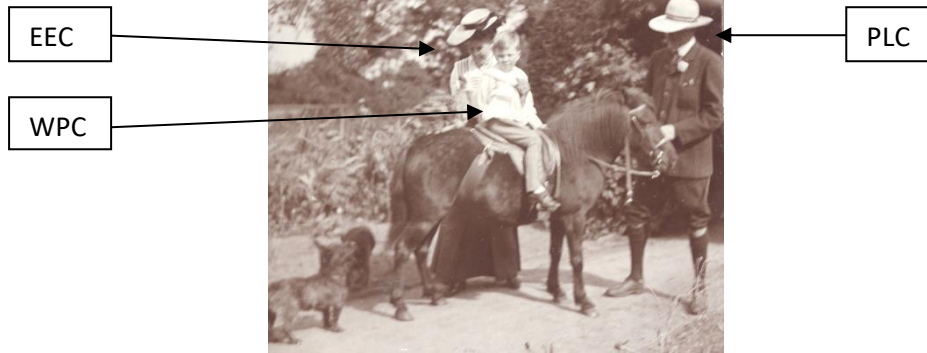
³ Here in Eardisland.

⁴ Current research indicates the Kensington District of London.[[www.Find My Past](http://www.FindMyPast)].

⁵ W.I. Book, page 23.

⁶ W.I. Book *To face Page 23*.

1903



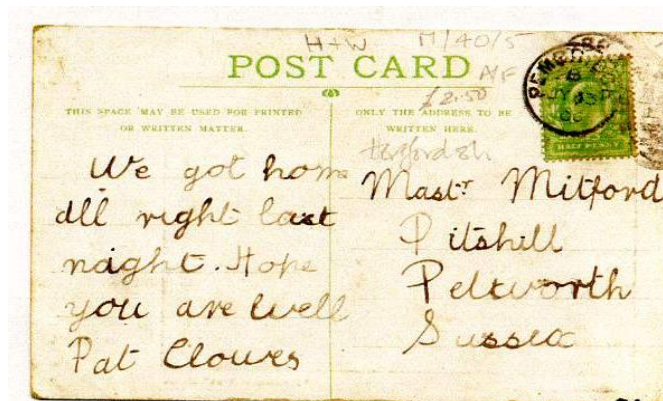
Perhaps his first riding lesson?

1904



Dated from another on the same page of the album which is dated 1904 in EEC handwriting.

1906



This is the only known example of his handwriting and nb. that he refers to himself as: "Pat Clowes".

In 1910, at the age of 12, his education was continued at Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire.⁷

No information is currently available about his earlier education.⁸

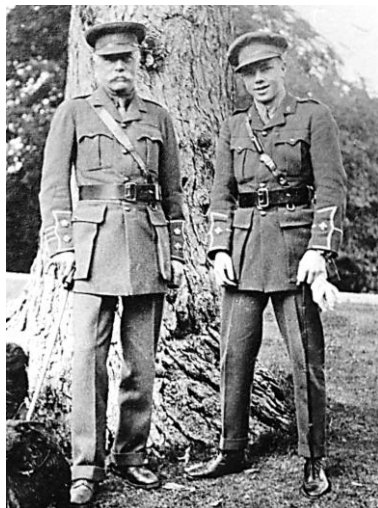
1914

At end of Easter
holiday 1914



From Album at Burton Court

WPC left Wellington in May 1915 and went to the R.M.C.⁹ ..., and in August was gazetted to 8th Hussars, which his father formerly commanded, and in which his great uncle, the late Major G. Clowes, also served during the Crimean War.



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Aug. 9. 1915.

PLC and WPC at Burton Court.

⁷ Letter from The Old Wellingtonian Society, 18th Nov. 2005 refers.

⁸ There is no evidence that he ever attended school here in Eardisland. That leaves as possibilities a 'Prep School' or a private tutor, either locally at Burton Court, or at Wardour Lodge Sunningdale, Berkshire; perhaps with other members of his extended family.

⁹ Royal Military College Sandhurst. [Wellington Year Book 1918, page 26].

¹⁰ From Wallet photographs, held at Burton Court.

Wellington Year Book 1918 continues:

He served with the 10th Reserve Regiment of Cavalry in Dublin and in the West at the time of the Irish Rebellion.



WPC

These photographs¹¹ are captioned, in Mrs E.E. Clowes' handwriting:

Taken at the Curragh & sent me afterwards 1916

Wellington Year Book 1918 continues:

He went to France in July, 1916...



Sunday July 9. 16 12

Wellington Year Book 1918 continues...*July, 1916/ and was at first attached to the machine-gun of the 6th Cavalry Brigade in the Thiepval portion of the line, was shortly after transferred to the machine gun portion of the Amballa Brigade, and was thus with his own regiment.*

¹¹ Maroon Album.

¹² Maroon Album: at HAS, reference awaited. Mrs Clowes' handwriting. Photographed outside the Orangery at Burton Court.

And then referring to 1917:

He was in action with his guns west of Peronne in March and April last year, through Tincourt, Roisel, and Villers Francon.

Later in 1917 he was again photographed with PLC at Burton Court:



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And probably during the same visit these next two photographs were taken:



EEC, his mother.



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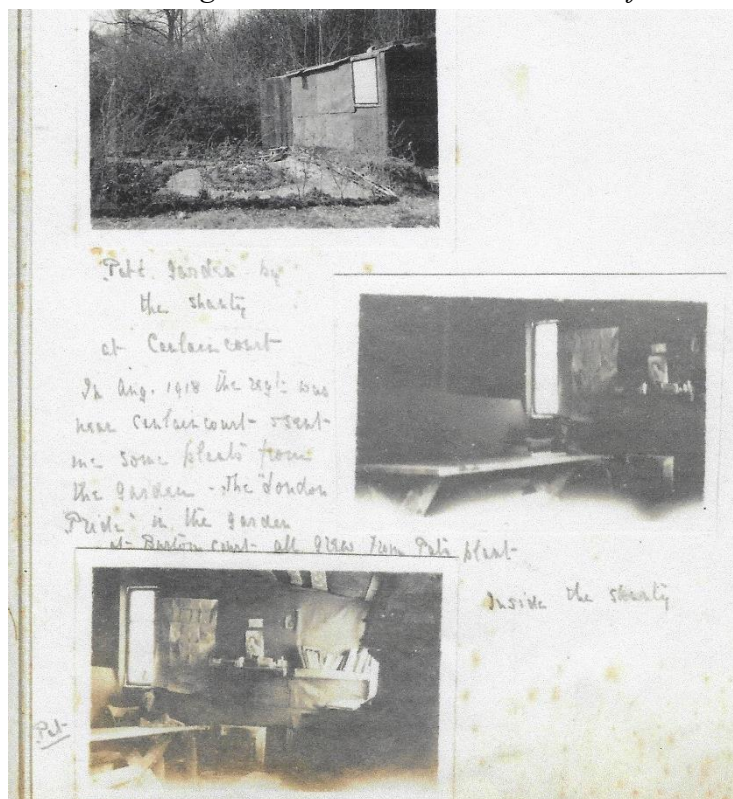
¹³ From WI Book 'To face page 22'.

¹⁴ Both from Maroon Album page 5 which includes five other photographs. It is captioned in Mrs Clowes' handwriting "July 1917".

Master Pat, WPC, was killed in action in France on 30th March 1918.

These last photographs from the Maroon Album include detail in the writing of his mother, Mrs E.E. Clowes. From her wording it is certain that the bottom two photographs must have been taken earlier that March, the top one later as suggested by what she says:

In Aug. 1918 the regt was near Coulain court & sent me some plants from the garden – The “London Pride” in the garden at Burton Court all taken from Pat’s plant.

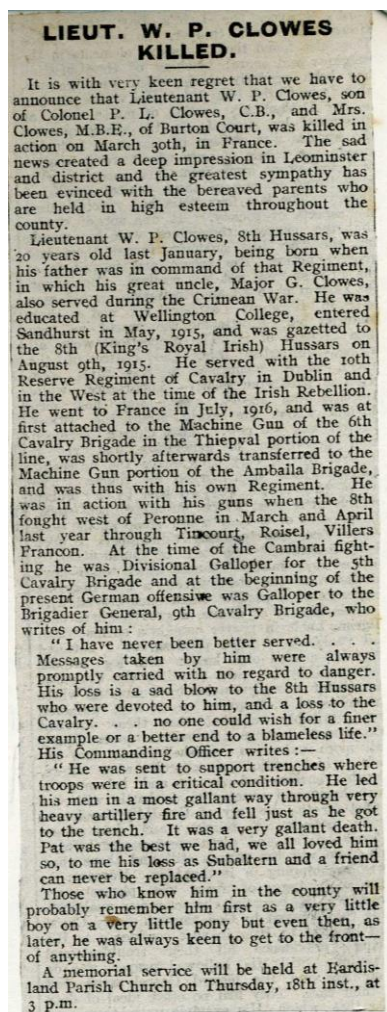


The final lines of his obituary entry in the Wellington Year Book are best included as first published, unadulterated by my typing:



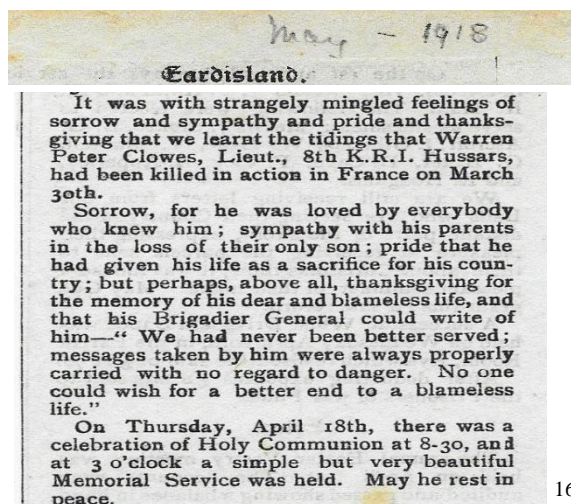
Brigadier-General, 9th Cavalry Brigade, writes of him:— “I have never been better served . . . Messages taken by him were always promptly carried with no regard to danger. . . . His loss is a sad blow to the Hussars, who were devoted to him, and a loss to the cavalry. . . . No one could wish for a finer example or a better end to a blameless life.” His Commanding Officer writes:— “He led his men in a most gallant way through very heavy artillery fire, and fell just as he got to the trench; it was a very gallant death. Pat was the best we had; we all loved him so; to me his loss as subaltern and a friend can never be replaced.”

This newspaper cutting probably comes from the Leominster News:



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Record of the Memorial Service survives in various versions, particularly pertinent being:

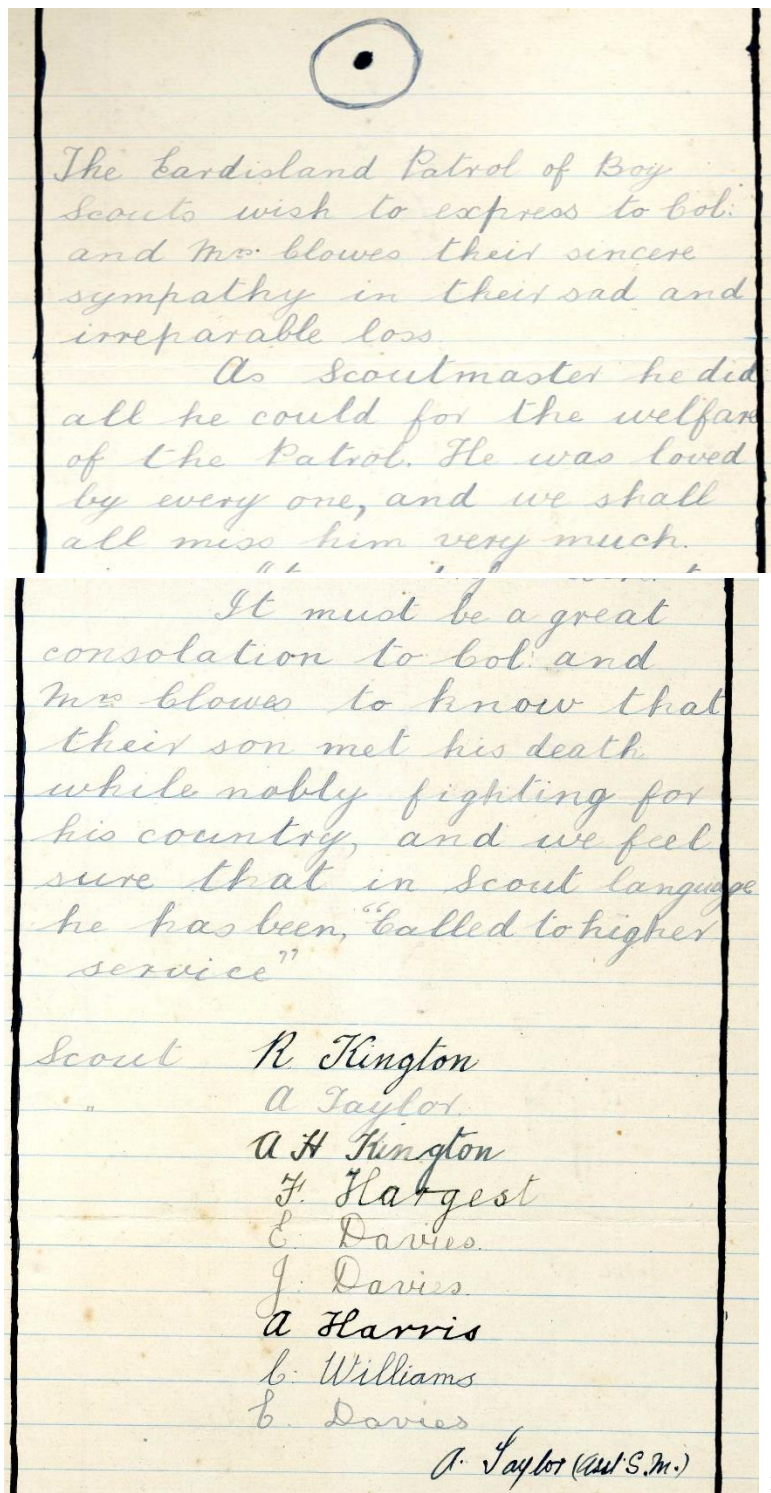


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¹⁵ IMG 718 associated with the Maroon Album.

¹⁶ IMG 725. Probably from Leominster Deanery Magazine.

Boy Scouts and choir attended Memorial Service for Lieut. Clowes ¹⁷
 A letter signed my members of the Scouts has survived:



The Cardisland Patrol of Boy Scouts wish to express to Col. and Mrs. Clowes their sincere sympathy in their sad and irreparable loss.

As Scoutmaster he did all he could for the welfare of the Patrol. He was loved by every one, and we shall all miss him very much.

It must be a great consolation to Col. and Mrs. Clowes to know that their son met his death while nobly fighting for his country, and we feel sure that in Scout language he has been, "Called to higher service"

Scout R. Kington
 " A Taylor
 " A H Kington
 F. Hargest
 E. Davies
 J. Davies
 A Harris
 C. Williams
 C. Davies

A. Taylor (Asst S.M.)

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It records the otherwise un-documented fact that he had been their Scoutmaster.

¹⁷ From the section about the school in the WI Book, at its page 45; where it is wrongly dated to 1917.

¹⁸ With other documents associated with the Maroon album, and the Maroon Album itself; at HARC.

Other newspaper records of the Memorial Service survive from one of which this next extract is taken:

Trumpeter Holmes, who had been sent from the Curragh Camp, belonged to Lieut. Clowes' Regiment, the 8th K.R.I. Hussars. In an interview he paid a splendid tribute to the deceased officer, who was, he said, universally popular and worshipped by every soldier in the 8th Hussars and 10th Reserves from the last man who joined to the Colonel. "He was looked upon as a good soldier, a fine rider and an excellent leader. He worthily upheld the finest traditions of the British Army and inspired implicit confidence both in men and officers. His loss has been the occasion of genuine sorrow amongst all who knew him.

Dated 19th April 1918 is a letter from a wounded member of the regiment, C. Perry:

From 14219 Pte C Perry
8th Hussars
Red Cross Hospital
Christchurch
Hampshire

19/4/18

22.4.18

Sir

I hope you will excuse the liberty I take in writing this letter, but I am sorry to say I saw the account of the death of your son Lieut W P Clowes in the Daily Mail. I had been his first servant since he joined the regt at Caulincourt from the Machine Gun Corps. I was wounded on the 30/3/18, when he was leading our party to the relief of the 15th. I had written to him from here, little dreaming he had given up his life, he was a gentleman, & a fine officer to follow anywhere, & I venture to offer my sympathy to you & Mrs Clowes in your great bereavement. Believe me to be,

yours very sincerely,
C. Perry

Perry wrote again dated 24th April:

See next page.....

From 14219 Pte C Perry
8th Hussars
Canada Ward
Red Cross Hospital
Christchurch
Hampshire

24/4/18

To Lieut Col P L Davies

Sir

It was very kind of you to acknowledge my letter, & as far as I can, I will give you an account of what happened on the 30th. We had relieved a party of ours the night before, in fact it was quite light; in a sunken road, & were spotted by aeroplanes, early in the morning they started shelling us, killing several of our men & wounding others, about ten o'clock we got the order to move about a kilometre further up the road, the shelling was terrible, but most of us got through, I started to dig in at once, but we were spotted again, & just after eleven o'clock they put a tremendous barrage each side of us, your son was encouraging everybody to dig in, but it got so bad he came in the hole with me, & we crouched together for about an hour & a half munching biscuits, as we had not had time to get food, just after one o'clock the order came to support the fifteenth Hussars, who were being heavily attacked, & your son immediately took the lead, from where we were, we had to cross as near as I could judge about six hundred yards of open fields in full view of the enemy's front trenches, which

The letter continues on the next page.....

were about a thousand yards away, & they opened a terrible rifle & machine gun fire on us, it was a regular death trap, & men fell fast, I got an explosive bullet in my instep when I had got about half way, & the last I saw of your son, he was still leading his men. I shall always remember him, not only as my officer, but as a gentleman, who always studied the comforts of his men before his own, & I am sure nobody regrets his loss more than I do.

I may add that as galloper on the Div, & Brig, from Cambrai till a few days before his death, I was his orderly in every ride, & we never failed to get there, nothing would stop him.

I shall be very pleased to call & give you any particulars when I am able, I have a broken instep, with two toes broken, but am pleased to say it is going on very well. My home is at Montgomery North Wales, & I have a wife & two children.

All your sons hit with the exception of one sack full is with the rest, the sack is full of surplus boots & clothes, & is at

Miss Beasley's

No 10. Rue De La Motte

Abbeville

Believe me to be sir

Respectfully yours

L. Perry

Master Pat was buried at Fouilloy in France.

Dated in Mrs Clowes' writing to 1925 are photographs of the cemetery. The wording indicates that she herself may have taken the photographs. The trees in the background suggest that they were taken late in the year, although it may equally be that the ravages of war were still evident in their condition. It should be noted that Colonel Clowes died at Burton Court on February 23rd 1925 after a short illness.



Fouilloy

Pat's stone
alone in corner

1925



Back here in Eardisland there are three memorials to Master Pat still extant.

On the south wall of the nave of the church, in the area which many centuries earlier had been a chapel associated with the lords of the Manor of Burton, is a plaque:



The wording reads:

REMEMBER
WARREN PETER CLOWES
Who served in the King's Royal Irish Hussars
As his father and Great-Uncle did before him.
He was killed when leading his men near
Warfussee-AbouCourt during the defense of
Amiens on March 30th 1918 aged 20 years.

The church organ was given by Colonel and Mrs Clowes. Carved on its casing, on the bottom left panel of the keyboard cover is:

*To the Glory
of God
and
in Memory of
our very dear son
Warren Peter
Clowes
P.L.C. E.E.C.*

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¹⁹ As seen by me in January 2006.

²⁰ My photograph. 2nd April 2017.

His name is included with the others on the Village War Memorial.



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..... *FINIS*

²¹ Undated archive photograph. Probably 1920.

