

Notes taken from record drawing 1935 amended to 1952 on O.S. Survey plan of 1933.

Description	Date of Erection	Cost	Remarks
Casemated Barracks	About 1864	Unknown	
Coal Store Block	Unknown	Unknown	
Guard Room and Detention Rooms (disused)	1867	£400	
Officer's Stables (2 Stalls)	1881	£196	
Officers and Transport Stables	1929	£2330	
Ammunition Store	1880	£289	Formerly laboratory converted 1931-32 at a cost of £39
Miniature Rifle Range	1914	Unknown	
Vehicle Shed	1902	£681	
30 Yards Rifle Range	1921	£342	
Gymnasium	1926	£4557	
Squash Racquet Court	1931-32	£768	Cost of building borne by Eastern Command Sports Board. This building forms encroachment no.2042
Water Supply Tanks	1913	Unknown	
Miniature Range, Rifle, Brick			
24,000 Gallons Water Tank			
48,000 Gallons Water Tank			

The plan appears to have amendments at 30.6.35, 30.6.37, 30.6.47 and 30.6.52

An Enduring Local Trust

Fr Peter Sherred (Clerk of the R.V.Coleman Trust)

If one studies a map of the Borough of Dover, as determined by the Commissioners appointed by the House of Commons in 1832 and incorporating all improvements to 1835, one sees the key features of the town at the beginning of the 19th century. In particular opposite the Maison de Dieu (as it is called), beside the road from Folkestone adjoining York Street, one comes across Priory Farm with its buildings, while moving northwards through the parish of Buckland, adjoining the Canterbury to London Road and located opposite where the now empty Buckland Mill buildings stand and just south of what was the Crabble Gate, one comes across a large area of land upon which is a significant building identified as The Shrubby.

Meanwhile, at the same time, if one ventures in the direction of Deal and passes through East Langdon one comes across a building the origins of which go back some 800 years from the date of the map of Dover. This building in the early 19th century was mostly neglected with its roof needing repair and an important item of its interior thrown outside the building. This was St Augustine's church East Langdon, and the piece of furniture concerned? None other than its font, neglected in the graveyard with its pedestal broken.

After the dissolution of the Dover Priory, which had been in place since the early 12th century, its lands were from time to time let to various people. At the end of the 18th

century the lands were worked by John Coleman, and this family continued to occupy the lands until dates in the 19th century when much was acquired for the purposes of Dover College. An interesting view of the farmland opposite the Maison de Dieu, dating from 1807, is found as a frontispiece to the book "Dover" by John Bavington Jones (1907).

The Shrubbery was the house of Vice Admiral Sir John Bentley in the 17th century. It was the oldest and largest house alongside Crabble Hill. Bentley was given command of a ship he had helped capture from the French, renamed *Invincible*, which was one of the finest 74 gun ships in naval service. He was knighted after the defeat of a French squadron in the Mediterranean, participated in a great victory in Quiberon Bay and died at Buckland on 3rd January 1772 where he had lived since 1763. The house and grounds were subsequently owned and occupied by various people and at the beginning of the 20th century were in the ownership of the Coleman family who had moved from The Priory.

The connection between the Priory Farm, The Shrubbery, St Augustine's Church East Langdon and the Trust? A man, Richard Vincent Coleman. Born on December 13th 1831, in the old farmhouse at Priory Farm, he owned The Shrubbery at the turn of the 20th century and died there on 5th July 1909. Buried in the family vault at St Augustine's churchyard in East Langdon, he had established by his will dated 27th September 1906 a charity which was eventually to be called The R V Coleman Convalescent and Nursing Home Trust.

In 2007 a group of local people, known as the Trustees of The R V Coleman Trust, met as is their custom, three times to consider various types of help, to people who qualify, they had given or could give to assist 'persons in need resident in the area of benefit who are sick, convalescent, disabled or infirm by relieving their suffering or assisting their recovery'. The trustees are the modern

Family tomb at East Langdon



representatives of the charity established by Coleman when he signed his will 101 years ago and now regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales dated 4th December 2000. Many thousands of people have benefited from the generosity of one man over the years. The Chairman Dr Walter Mason, a retired general practitioner, and the trustees also consider the work of the welfare officer Mrs Barbara Godfrey, a former probation officer, who is the 'front line' representative of the trust along with the writer who has been privileged to have served as Clerk of the Charity for 16 years. The area of influence for the trust in practice has meant benefits to patients living in the urban area of Dover and the parishes of Alkham, Ashley, Capel, Coldred, Denton, Kingsdown, Lydden, Ringwould, River, St Margaret's, Shepherdswell, Studdal, Sutton, Swingfield, and Waldershare - effectively an arc around the northern boundary of Dover. Most trustees are appointed for a five-year term but forfeit their position if they do not attend meetings for one year. They are empowered to make grants of money and provide or pay for goods, services or facilities for patients. Their ability to do so rests on the rental income from the R V Coleman Home (now

located in Brookfield Avenue on the site that was once The Shrubbery and its grounds) and from their investment portfolio, which enables the trustees to meet the object of the Charitable Trust. Most grants are devoted to residential and nursing home referrals. In 2006 they funded some 87 cases to a total of £43,889 and between 2000 and 2005 assistance for 612 referrals. These referrals come predominantly via general practitioners and, as a registered charity, details of its finances are notified to the Charity Commission once a year. However, the trust does not limit its response to residential care cases but has provided assistance for convalescent aids such as a special car seat for a child, donations to the Pilgrims Hospice and the Demelza Hospice for children, (in both cases following inquiry on patients being treated from within the area of benefit), wheelchair assistance, provision of a scooter shelter, Aspen Unit for a hydrotherapy pool, a recliner-riser chair, four wheeled walkers and the purchase of a specialist tandem cycle for a blind autistic person. These are just some of the ways this charity has helped improve the lives of those who make application to it and who fall within its object. Because of the demands upon its resources applications are carefully scrutinised. The trustees can refuse assistance and have total discretion on their response to requests for help and this is necessary to preserve the funds of the charity and ensure its purpose is continued into the future.

The current trustees, Dr W Mason, Mrs B Harrison, Mr B Lawrence, Mr T Gould, Mr R J Tant, Mrs M M R Pain and Mrs M Mee, supported by Mrs B Godfrey as welfare officer and the writer as clerk, 98 years after the death of Richard Vincent Coleman, are still able to give assistance and relief in the

spirit intended by him to those who qualify and are referred to the trust. Where residential care is provided and funded by the trust a weekly contribution is required from a patient and the maximum period currently funded, due to the demands on its resources, is two weeks. For many people those two weeks are a lifeline in terms of respite care and it is wonderful to know that the generosity of a man from the 19th and 20th centuries is still available to needy people in the 21st century.

The original minute book, which was meticulously completed by hand in manuscript form from the first meeting of the proposed Trustees on the 10th June 1914 to the 26th January 2000, when the book was full, is a treasure trove of the historical record of developments of the trust from its inception; of the history of Dover, of well known local and other names and of other developments as the 20th century developed and merits separate attention to that given in this article.

Richard Vincent Coleman was described as 'public spirited' who 'out of his ample means was kind to the poor' yet he did not take part in public affairs although being well known and highly respected in the town at the time. His memory deserves to live on and does so in the sterling work of the trust which carries his name and forms an integral part of the public affairs of the town today.



Rear view of R.V. Coleman Home