

**Burchmore Graves in the Churchyard of the Parish Church of St Leonard,  
Flamstead**

**Recorded March 19, 2006 by Ian van Zyl**

On March 19, 2006 I visited the villages of Flamstead and Markyate, near St Albans, north of London.. The villages are well preserved and retain a rural character, despite the presence of the M4 motorway a few 100 meters east of Flamstead and the busy A5 carrying traffic to the Whipsnade Zoo.

**1. Roe End (Row End) Farm**

Roe End Farm, Flamstead is recorded as the birthplace of Thomas Burchmore (b. 1818) who emigrated to South Africa with his wife and three children in 1850. The farm is actually closer to the village of Markyate, but evidently previously was part of the parish of Flamstead.

Roe End lane is a narrow lane which eventually turns into a bridle path. To the north of the lane are Roe End Lodge (a fairly modern building) and Roe End Farm, now a business, with two old houses which seem to be in use as office space.



**Figure 1: Entrance to Roe End Farm**



**Figure 2: View of farmhouses and buildings from public footpath**



**Figure 3: Old farmhouse, Roe End Farm**





Figure 5: High Street, Markyate





**Figure 6: Road leading south towards Roe End farm, from Markyate**

## 2. The Village of Flamstead

There are still several old buildings in Flamstead, as seen by these views:



Figure 7: Three Blackbirds Pub, Flamstead



Figure 8: Spotted Dog, Flamstead



**Figure 9: High Street, Flamstead**

### 3. The Parish Church of St Leonard, Flamstead



Figure 10: Parish Church of St Leonard, Flamstead, from the High Street



Figure 11: Parish Church of St Leonard, Flamstead, South East Corner.



A group of gravestones stand together just to the West of the North Door of the church. Some are well preserved, others are difficult to read, but all seem to be Burchmore or close family Graves. The oldest legible inscription is from 1757, the newest from 2000.



**Figure 12: Burchmore Family Graves looking East**

The inscription on the stones is as follows (refer to numbers in figure 1):

1:

In Memory of Thos Burchmore Obit 18 Nov 1816 age 36 (more, perhaps another name, illegible)

2:

In memory of Elizabeth Burchmore who departed this life 1<sup>st</sup> April in the year 1797 in the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of her age.

A pale consumption gave the fatal blow

The stroke was certain the effect was slow

With wafting pains death found me long oppressed

Pitty'd my sighs and kindly gave me rest

3:

In memory George Burchmore of Row End who departed this life 13 January 1788 aged 24 years.

4:

Sacred to the memory of George Burchmore of Row End who departed this life August (illegible) 1843 aged 80 years.

In loving memory of John Burchmore formerly of Adelaide(?) died 15<sup>th</sup> (illegible) 1870  
And his beloved wife Ann died 25 November 1878 aged 82 years. O rest in the Lord.

5: This is the best preserved stone in the group. Most likely it was cleaned when the most recent burial occurred:

The front of the stone reads:

Sacred to the memory of George Burchmore of Row End farm who departed this life the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January 1838.

Also of George Burchmore son of the above who departed this life 22 August 1866 in the 49<sup>th</sup> year of his age.

Also of Sarah Burchmore widow of the above who fell asleep 16 Sept 1905 aged 87 years

Happy Soul thy days are ended

All thy mourning days below

And by Angel guards attended

To the throne of Jesus go

The back of the stone reads:

In memory of Janet Elspeth loved wife of John Burchmore died 5<sup>th</sup> October 1994 aged 66 years

And John William Burchmore died 13<sup>th</sup> January 2000 aged 71 years

Much loved parents.



Figure 13: Grave inscription, looking East



**Figure 14: Inscription, looking West**

6:

Michael Rowed of Cheverill who died 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 1844 aged 66 years.  
Also of Sarah Rowed wife of the above who died July 16 1875 aged 85 years

7:

Thomas Burchmore died March ?? 1811

8:

Thomas Burchmore who departed this life (illegible) 1816

9:

Illegible

10:

In memory of Thomas Burchmore who departed this life July 25, 1806 aged 76 years.

11:

Overtured, and almost illegible

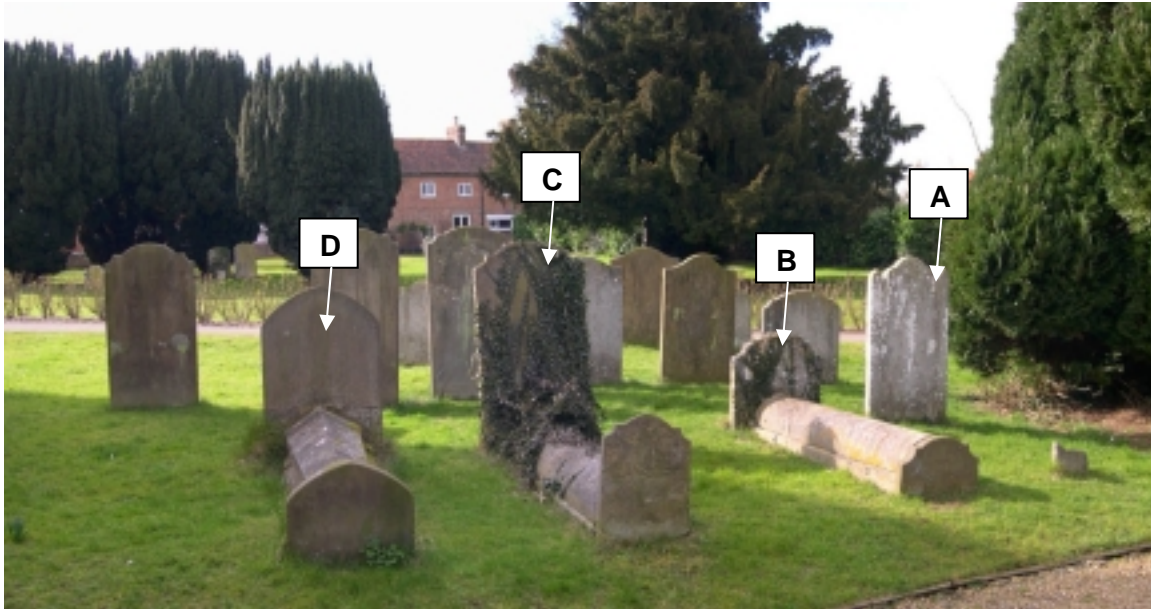
Burchmore (illegible) 1757 aged 80 years

12:

Sacred to the memory of Martha Burchmore daughter of Adam(?) and Elizabeth who died 6 March 1886 aged 19 weeks

13:

(illegible) Susanna (illegible) 1829 aged 18 years



**Figure 15: Burchmore Graves looking West**

This group has head and footstones. A: and B: also have small stones at the head, illegible (perhaps child burials)

A: illegible

B: illegible

C:

Sacred to the memory of Ann Burchmore who departed this life Aug 4, 1853 aged 45 years.

Also Charlotte Burchmore who died September 20 1885 aged 80 years

Also Mary Ann Burchmore who died Aug 31, 1891 aged 78 years

D:

In memory of William Burchmore late of (illegible) who died Jan 17 1856 aged 64 years.