

GLIMPSES OF HOLT

REBECCA'S RING

When the foundations for the extension to the south side of St. Andrew's Church were dug in 2012, several graves had to be excavated. One of these contained the remains of Rebecca, buried in 1734, wife of Patrick Blyford, a woollen draper in Holt.



Sir Christopher Myngs was a larger-than-life national hero of the Second Anglo-Dutch War (1665-7) but in his younger days he had been a ruthless pirate in the Caribbean. These buccaneers were part of a British plot to undermine Spanish dominance in the region but not all of the treasure he captured was passed to the authorities. It is tempting to speculate that some found its way to his daughter in Holt.



The reburial of Rebecca's remains after a short service in June 2012.

June 10th 66 Sr C M



Photo: Gordon Follows

Among Rebecca's remains was a gold ring inscribed 'June 10th 66 Sr C M', a mourning ring in honour of her father, Sir Christopher Myngs who had died in 1666. Sue Smart has researched the wills of that period and notes that

Rebecca bequeathed a pair of diamond pendants with pearls, a diamond ring, a cornelian ring, a locket set round with gold and emeralds. It seems likely that she acquired these items from her father who had lived at Salhouse.



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