

## **The case of Mabel of Lincolnshire**

Translation by Charles West from Doris Stenton, *Lincolnshire Assize Rolls of 1202*.

### **The wapentake of Aswardhurn [near Sleaford in Lincolnshire]**

763. Alured the carpenter fled to the church for the murder of Godwin and abjured the realm. His chattels are worth 2 marks.

763a. Mabel the wife of the aforementioned Godwin accused William son of Thakel, that he had been in the brawl with Alured when he [Alured] killed her husband, and that he [William] had held Godwin down when Alured killed him. And William is a cleric, and a subdeacon, and bound himself to the clerical court and left the lay court. And he has a lay fief, and it was committed to the bishop's official.

763b. The same Mabel accused Juliana, the wife of the aforementioned Alured and her daughter Isabella, that Alured had killed her husband on their advice. Mabel was asked if Juliana and Isabella had been present when Godwin was killed, or if she had ever heard or seen them advising Alured that he should kill him. She said no. And so it was decided that there was no accusation, and so Mabel was amerced and bound to the peace. *Note: The amercement of Mabel is forgiven.*