

# Independence

Character quality | May 2023

**Freedom:** Fairness, Social Justice, Vision, Independence, Lack of restrictions, Choice, Equality

**Nicola de la Haie (or Nicholaa de la Haye) was the Sheriff of Lincolnshire and the defender of her home – Lincoln Castle – against multiple sieges by both English and French armies.**

**She and her husband openly supported King Richard I's younger brother John's claim to the throne. When Nicola's husband was away, King Richard I's forces attacked Lincoln Castle in retaliation. Nicola led the defence of the castle successfully for 40 days, after which a truce was drawn up.**

**On Richard I's death, his younger brother John assumed the throne, but John was unpopular; the barons of England persuaded Prince Louis of France to attempt an invasion and overthrow King John. By 1217, Louis controlled much of England including Lincolnshire, but not Lincoln Castle. Nicola once again led a successful defence of the castle until English forces could arrive and drive away the French in The Battle of Lincoln Fair. For her role in preventing the French capture of England, she is known as 'the woman who saved England'.**

Google 'Nicola de la Haie' or 'the woman who saved England' to learn more.

