

## The Daltons of Kildalton: a Norman-Irish gentry family, Part I

Dr Mike Fitzpatrick ✉

Independent Scholar, Titirangi, Auckland, New Zealand 0604

*Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society* 2024, 5, 1-10

### Abstract

The Daltons of Kildalton (Cill an Dátúnaigh), a townland less than one mile north of the River Suir and the Co. Waterford (Port Láirge) border, are a well-known family with a rich and colourful history that has been documented back to fourteenth-century southern Co. Kilkenny (Cill Chainnigh). Such was the status of the family, who had Kilmodalla (Cill Modhallá) as one of their major bases from the fifteenth century, that by the sixteenth century the town had undergone a name change to Kildalton, forever embedding their patronymic in that place, and other areas nearby.

*Part I of 'The Daltons of Kildalton: a Norman-Irish gentry family'*, focusses on the central family figure of the late thirteen-century, Richard de Antōn, who was Sheriff of Waterford between 1291 and 1293. Richard was almost certainly the forebear of the Daltons of Kildalton, and he first established their place in Co. Kilkenny. Richard's origins intrigue, as does his surname, but his place among the Irish gentry of the thirteenth century unequivocally connects him to families of high status and power, who came to Ireland (Éire) at the time of the Norman invasions.

Y-DNA analysis of ancestors of the Daltons of Kildalton is distinct and also intrigues. Yet, much sense can be made of a common direct paternal genetic ancestry, ca. 1100 AD, with those of Branan-like surnames, whose ancestors also arrived in Ireland among the Norman gentry class.

### Names, styles, edits, and historical records

This article is written in the English language, but the people and places discussed are Irish. To acknowledge Gaelic (Gaeilge) and to afford readers insights into word meanings, place names are provided in Gaeilge using a modern spelling<sup>1</sup>; for example, Knocktopher (Cnoc an Tóchair), unless the place name is titular, for instance, the Sheriff of Waterford.

The rendition of names referenced in this article requires consistency because there can be much variability in historical records even for the same individual, with mixtures of Gaelic, English, French, and Latin forms being used – sometimes with spellings imaginatively conjured up via phonetics. If the name used is part of a citation, the approach here is to use the exact spelling from the source – this has no small importance in this article because records of the ancestors of the Daltons of Kildalton had their surname recorded in several ways.

---

<sup>1</sup> Placenames database of Ireland (Meitheal Logainm), <https://www.logainm.ie>

© Copyright 2020-2024 | All rights reserved | The Fitzpatrick Clan Society

Fitzpatrick, M. (2024). The Daltons of Kildalton: a Norman-Irish gentry family, Part I.

The Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society 5, 1-10. [doi:10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety01624](https://doi.org/10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety01624), Ver1, 15 February 2024

This article is a living work, i.e., it can, and most likely will, be edited by the author, who will retain all versions. Every effort has been made to consult all available records related to the period relevant to this article.

## Introduction

The origins of the Co. Kilkenny family of Dalton were first considered in print by Rev. William Healy in *History and Antiquities of Kilkenny County and City*<sup>2</sup>. Healy went into some detail explaining the tradition of Walter D'Alton, who arrived in Ireland at the time of Henry II and was given extensive lands in the Barony of Rathconrath (Ráth Conarta), formerly 'Daltons' Country', in modern-day Co. Westmeath (Iarmhí)<sup>3</sup>.

Healy unequivocally attributed the appearance of Daltons in Co. Kilkenny to a branch of the Rathconrath line that "probably" began with William Dalton, who "imported from ... some of their extensive settlements in Westmeath" and who "died in 1591, settled in Kildalton" – the latter based on an inquisition<sup>4</sup> that recorded "William Daton" was seized of various holdings in the Barony of Iverk at his death on 10 Nov 1591, viz., "the village and fields of Kilmedall" (or Kilmodalla, meaning, the Church of St Modailbh<sup>5</sup>, afterward called Kildalton) and other small acreages in various nearby townlands<sup>6</sup>.

In what looks almost like an afterthought, Healy added, "besides the Kildalton family another of the name settled equally early at Ballynacronny (Baile na Crona), in the Barony of Iverk". Healy suggested the progenitor of the Ballynacronny line was Peter Dalton, who also died in 1591, and that he was a brother or cousin of William. Soon after its publication, a (favourable) review of Healy's work noted,

"An error is made in confounding the Westmeath family of D'Alton with the Kilkenny family of Daton, originally D'Autun, who bore different arms, and whose name appears to have been first corrupted into Dalton by the Down surveyors. Dr Daton, bishop of Ossory, never called himself Dalton"<sup>7</sup>

No qualification of those reviewer statements was made, but the surname position was also held by the great Ossory historian, Rev. William Carrigan, who said Dalton was "incorrectly

---

<sup>2</sup> Healy W. (1893). *History and Antiquities of Kilkenny (county and city)*; with illustrations and appendix compiled from inquisitions deeds wills funeral entries family records and other historical and authentic sources. Kilkenny: PM Egan.

<sup>3</sup> Much of Healy's discussion of the D'Alton family gets stronger coverage by the Dalton Genealogical Society, in 'Success at last, the Daltons of Kildalton' (Pat Robinson, 1994, *Dalton Genealogical Journal*, 20, 24-32) and 'Knights to Dreamers' by Rodney Garth Dalton: <https://www.daltongenealogicalsociety.org>.

<sup>4</sup> *Inquisitionum in officio rotulorum cancellariae Hiberniae Vol. I* (1826), 24 Jac I. Ireland: Chancery.

<sup>5</sup> Carrigan W. (1905). *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Dublin, Sealy, Bryers and Walker. Volume IV, p.219.

<sup>6</sup> That is, Ballynametagh (Baile na mBiatagh), Dowling (Dobhlainn), Fiddown (Fiodh Dúin), Gortrush (Gort an Rois), Jamestown (Baile Shéamais), Tobernabrone and Lisnagency (Tobar na Brón), Tobernafauna (Tobar Afána), and Whitechurch (Teampall Geal).

<sup>7</sup> Review of *History and Antiquities of Kilkenny County and City* by W. Healy, 1893. *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* (1893), 3, 321–323.

written”, and that it was really a version of Daton or D’Autun<sup>8</sup>. As will be demonstrated, it is certain that the early Kilkenny records of the family use Daton, or similar, and never Dalton. Further, the case against Meath (Mhí) origins finds support via contrasting spellings in other records, such as those of the Commissioners of Peace in Ireland. While Walter Datoun and John, son of Redmond Datoun, are recorded as Officers in Kilkenny in 1382 and 1425, respectively, there are no officer’s surnames spelt Dalton. And there are several Officers in Meath, recorded in 1345 and 1382, whose surnames are always spelt Dalton, but never Datoun<sup>9</sup>.

Carrigan did not entertain Meath origins for the Kilkenny Datons, but neither did he discuss the pre-fourteenth century origins of the family, only noting the aforementioned Walter Datoun was the earliest he found recorded of the surname in Co. Kilkenny. Yet earlier records exist. Pat Robinson and Garth Dalton<sup>3</sup> identified ‘Hugh Datoun’ as the first of his name recorded in Co. Kilkenny, appearing as a witness in a 1314 quit-claim of Nigel le Brun to Sir Edmund Butler, Earl of Carrick, relating to his possessions in the Barony of Knocktopher<sup>10</sup>.

However, the recent publication of manuscripts, such as those of the Irish Chancery, at the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland<sup>11</sup> has provided access to earlier records of Hugh, which greatly enhance the understanding of his lineage. Hugh, who is found in various records between 1297 and 1316, was the son of Richard de Antōn, Sheriff of Waterford.

### **Richard de Antōn, Sheriff of Waterford**

Richard de Antōn, is found in several late thirteenth-century to early fourteenth-century Irish records, and often he is noted as the Sheriff of Waterford. There are various spellings of his surname<sup>12</sup> but de Antōn is the version found in surviving manuscripts (in French) of the ‘Receipt Roll of Elias de Winchester, Deputy Treasurer of Ireland’ for 1291 and 1292<sup>13</sup>. Figure 1 provides two examples of the handwritten entry from the Receipt Roll, on which a total of six occurrences are translated either, “from the profit of County Waterford or “from the debts of various persons of County Waterford, by Richard de Antōn”. Richard’s tenure as Sheriff of Waterford can be determined via the Receipt Roll and other Exchequer

<sup>8</sup> Carrigan W (1905). Vol IV, p.221.

<sup>9</sup> Frame R (1992). Commissions of the Peace in Ireland, 1302-1461. *Analecta Hibernica*, 35, 1-43.

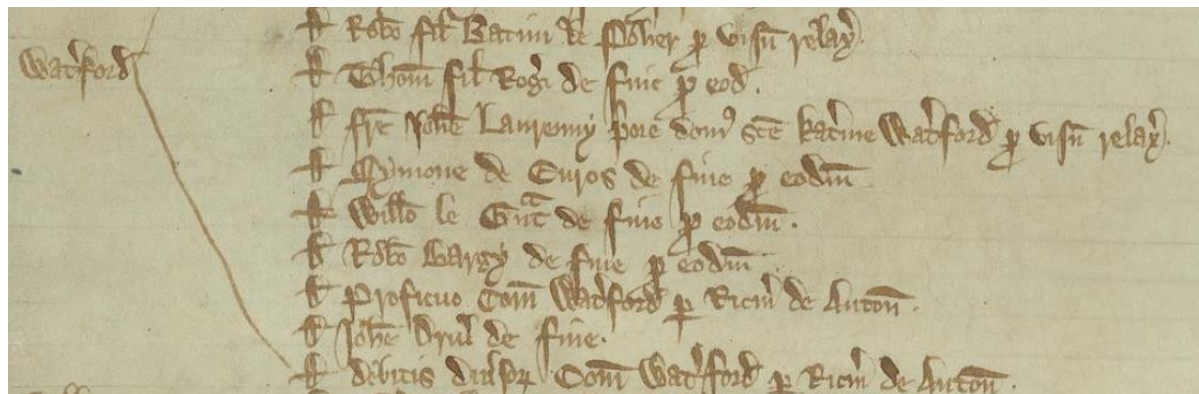
<sup>10</sup> Curtis E (1932). *Calendar of Ormond Deeds 1172-1350 AD*. Dublin: The Stationery Office, p.195.

<sup>11</sup> <https://virtualtreasury.ie>

<sup>12</sup> Usually transcribed as de Anton’, or de Anton, but occasionally as de Antone and de Auton’.

<sup>13</sup> The manuscript is viewable (VRTI MedEx 1/2/1291, Receipt roll of Elias de Winchester, deputy treasurer of Ireland, Michaelmas 1291 to Michaelmas 1292: Nicholas de Clere, treasurer of Ireland) and the several handwritten occurrences have the appearance of ‘de Antōn’ or ‘de Autōn’. The English-language translation of the manuscript was created by the Medieval Exchequer Gold Seam of TNA (i.e., The National Archives, UK) experts, who use ‘de Anton’; their expertise is deferred to here. In addition, the experts consider the toponymic forms found in the manuscript are “genuine surnames” not an immediate reference to a place name, i.e., ‘Richard de Anton’ is not a reference to ‘Richard of Anton’. The form ‘de Antōn’ is used in this article as the default in order to emphasise the old French accentuation, which in this case serves to stress the letter o; hence a phonetic rendering is ‘de Antone’ and explains why some transcriptions exist in that form (see, Learned WD, 1922. *The Accentuation of Old French Loanwords in English*. *Journal of the Modern Language Association of America*, 4, 707-721).

documents<sup>14</sup>; he made returns to the Treasury between 14 January 1291 and 20 October 1292, and from Easter 1293 to the Feast of St Martin (11 November) 1293; during the intervening period Maurice Russell made returns as Sheriff of Waterford, and he also preceded and superseded Richard de Antōn.



**Figure 1:** an excerpt of the receipt roll of Elias de Winchester, showing Richard de Antōn<sup>14</sup>

As well as collecting debts, Richard himself was in debt when he died in 1295. The Memoranda Rolls<sup>15</sup> of the English Exchequer for the twenty-second year of Edward I commencing Michaelmas (29 September) refer to Richard as the “then” Sheriff of Waterford<sup>16</sup> and later that, “the Seneschals of Kildare and Kilkenny [were instructed] to seize goods of Richard de Anton’ deceased formerly Sheriff of Waterford”<sup>17</sup>. Likewise, William de Moenes, a Baron of the Exchequer, “was assigned to enquire of and take the goods of ... Richard de Anton, deceased”<sup>17</sup>.

Exchequer receipts between 1298 and 1302 record payments totaling £10 10s 4d of the account arrears of Richard de Antone, sheriff, by Richard Blakeman le Poer, an unnamed donor, and Eustace le Poer<sup>18,19</sup>. Richard’s debts were finally cleared in 1304. A Close Roll<sup>20</sup> of that year records the aforementioned “Hugh de Antony” was pardoned the sum of £100 due to “good service ... in Scotland”<sup>21</sup>, being “the debts of Richard de Antony’, his father, and for his own debts”.

How did Richard de Antōn attain the position of Sheriff of Waterford? Ciaran Parker provides the necessary understanding. “In County Waterford there were various socio-

<sup>14</sup> See, Sweetman HS (1879). *Calendar of Documents, Ireland 1285-1292*. London: Longman & Co; Sweetman HS (1881). *Calendar of Documents, Ireland 1293-1301*. London: Longman & Co; Dougherty JB (1905). *The Thirty-Seventh Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records and Keeper of the State Papers in Ireland*. Dublin: His Majesty’s Stationary Office.

<sup>15</sup> Rolls recording memoranda made in the Exchequer.

<sup>16</sup> NAI EX 2/1/1/5, Memoranda Roll, 22-23 Edward I, roll 20, membrane 5, accessed 1 February 2024.

<sup>17</sup> NAI EX 2/1, *Calendar of Memoranda Rolls, 22-3 Edward I; 31-5 Edward I*, accessed on 1 February 2024.

<sup>18</sup> Sweetman HS (1881), p.249 (‘Richard Dantone’), p.313 (‘Richard de Anton’), p.376 (‘Richard de Antone’).

<sup>19</sup> Sweetman HS and Handcock GF (1886). *Calendar of Documents, Ireland 1302-1307*. London: Longman & Co. p.27 (‘Richard de Anton’).

<sup>20</sup> Sweetman HS and Handcock GF (1886), p.119.

<sup>21</sup> That is, Hugh de Antōn participated in Edward I’s campaigns in Scotland between 1298 and 1303.

political groupings, the baronage, the gentry and the ‘lineages’ who were the relatives of both groups”. The baronage and the gentry “were all drawn from the descendants of settlers who had been established in the late twelfth and early thirteenth century”<sup>22</sup>.

By the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the post of Sheriff of Waterford was concentrated in a limited socio-political group, and “the single most powerful representative in the shrievalty were the les Poers”, although that power did not always translate to holding the office, due to “lack of cohesion and integrity of the family”<sup>23</sup>. Many of those who were not members of Waterford society owed their positions as sheriffs to the patronage of the local le Poer family or to connections with other of the gentry who were powerful at a national level. For example, Robert de Marreis (sheriff 1317) was a step-brother of John le Poer of Donoil, and John de Stanes (sheriff 1319-1320) depended on the support of Sir Arnold de Poer<sup>24</sup>.

Members of the “baronial and gentry lineages could become sheriff” and many Waterford sheriffs of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries “were from outside the county but went on to gain lands there”<sup>24</sup>, such as the later high-ranking Sir William de la Rochelle<sup>25</sup> (sheriff 1254-1255 and 1262-1263) and Sir Walter de la Haye<sup>26</sup> (sheriff 1272-1284). Richard de Antōn benefited in like manner, and an interrogation of the lands he gained provides insights into how, when, and why the ancestors of Kildalton Daltons came to be domiciled in southern Co. Kilkenny.

Richard’s landholdings are described under the account of Walter de la Haye, then Escheator of Ireland, relating to Margery de la Rochelle, whose estate was contested after she died – the case dragged on for several years<sup>27</sup>. Under the heading ‘Lands of Richard de Antoun’, de la Haye accounted £3 16s 3d from “parts of the demesnes etc in Co. Kilkenny, belonging to Richard de Antoun” who held them off Margery de la Rochelle, who held them off Edward I<sup>28</sup>. There was no slight complexity concerning Margery’s estate, but the demesnes in Co Kilkenny included Knocktopher, which enjoyed a troubled and often shared possession throughout the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

---

<sup>22</sup> Parker C (1992). The politics and society of County Waterford in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries [thesis], Trinity College (Dublin, Ireland). Department of History, pp. 512, p.1.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid., p.256.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., p.258-259.

<sup>25</sup> Sir Richard Rochelle, Sheriff of Waterford was also a Deputy Justiciar of Ireland (1254-1255), see the Dictionary of Irish Biography: <https://www.dib.ie/biography/rochelle-rokele-rokesle-rupella-rupellis-richard-de-la-a7756>, accessed 7 February 2024.

<sup>26</sup> Walter de Haye held justiciary and administrative rolls in Ireland, see the Dictionary of Irish Biography: <https://www.dib.ie/biography/haye-sir-walter-de-la-a3870>, accessed 7 February 2024.

<sup>27</sup> Walter de la Haye was an insatiable collector of finances for the Crown and the case of Margery de la Rochelle, who was the granddaughter of Sir Richard de la Rochelle, is just one example of de la Haye’s zeal. A writ from King Edward I to de la Haye details that Margery and her only child, Roesia, died shortly after the childbirth in 1289. Margery’s significant estate reverted to the Crown instead of, according to English Law, her husband, James Keating, and this was via the escheator’s inquisition taken by jurors, ignorant of the facts concerning Roesia’s birth. Margery’s case is very well documented, for example, see Sweetman HS (1879) p.217-218.

<sup>28</sup> Cullinan FJ (1906). The Thirty-Eighth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records and Keeper of the State Papers in Ireland. Dublin, His Majesty’s Stationary Office, p.38.



St John Brooks provides a history of the Knocktopher fees<sup>29</sup>. In short, Matthew fitz Griffin, son of Griffin fitz William<sup>30</sup>, held 1¾ fees in Knocktopher in 1247, but they had long been usurped from his niece, Clarice, whose father, Gilbert fitz Griffin, died when she was six months old, ca. 1204. It took Clarice some fifty years to recover her Knocktopher inheritance and her other lands, which she accomplished by enlisting William de Dene<sup>31</sup> and Sir Richard de la Rochelle, who at that time was standing in for the Justiciar. In return for their aid, in 1254, Clarice afforded both de Dene and de la Rochelle each one-third of her land holdings.

The de la Rochelle third of Knocktopher came down to John de la Rochelle, son of Robert, son of Sir Richard de la Rochelle, (i.e., Margery's brother), who married Sibilla, a daughter of Sir Walter de la Haye<sup>32</sup>. John died childless sometime before 1289, and Margery is recorded as his heir<sup>28</sup>, but in 1322, long after Margery's death, Sibilla is stated as once having dower from all of John's premises in Co. Kilkenny, Co. Tipperary, and Co. Waterford<sup>33</sup>. This brings confusion since Sibilla had no right to dower – at least not via her marriage to John de la Rochelle.

As mentioned, Richard de Antōn held the de la Rochelle portion of Knocktopher lands immediately after Margery's death while James Keating, Margery's husband, was contesting Sir Walter de la Haye taking the lands into the King's hands. And there are clues to show Sir Walter may have manipulated the fate of the de la Rochelle portion of Knocktopher estates, for which he had desire and came to possess<sup>34</sup>. A Latin transcript of a Plea Roll of 1295<sup>35</sup> records that Hugh, son and heir of Richard de Antōn, was a child when his father died and that custody of the estate during Hugh's minority was with Sir William le Waleis, Sir Reginald de Dene and Maurice fitz David<sup>36</sup>. Hugh's estate included the de la Rochelle third of Knocktopher, being one-and-a-half carucates<sup>37</sup> and a mill, and was claimed in dower by Richard's widow, Anabilla.

Noting the challenges of perfectly transcribing thirteenth-century manuscripts, could Anabilla be the same person as Sibilla, daughter of Sir Walter de la Haye? It is not

---

<sup>29</sup> St John Brooks E (1950). *Knights' fees in Counties Wexford, Carlow and Kilkenny*. Dublin: Stationary Office.

<sup>30</sup> That is, William son of Gerald fitz Walter, i.e., Gerald of Windsor.

<sup>31</sup> William de Dene was Sheriff of Co. Cork (1259 to 1260) and Justiciar of Ireland at the time of his death, in 1261, at the Battle of Callan (Berry HF, 1905. *Sheriffs of the County Cork: Henry III to 1660*. *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 15, 39-52).

<sup>32</sup> Betham W (1820). *Historical and genealogical extracts from the Plea Rolls in the Birmingham Tower, Dublin Castle, Edward III to Henry VI*. Genealogical Office Manuscripts Collection, National Library of Ireland.

<sup>33</sup> O'Farrell E (1911). *The Forty-Second Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records and Keeper of the State Papers in Ireland*. Dublin, His Majesty's Stationary Office, p.45.

<sup>34</sup> Returning to Clarice fitz Griffin, she quitted claim on her third of Knocktopher to Milo le Bret, who is considered to be her second cousin (St John Brooks E, 1941. *Feudal Charters of the De Burgo Lordship of Connacht* by Edmund Curtis. *Irish Historical Studies*, 2, 440-442). From Milo it went to Edmund le Bret, his son and heir, who quit claimed it to Sir Walter de la Haye ca. 1292 (Curtis E, 1932, p.122).

<sup>35</sup> NAI RC 7/3/14, Plea Roll, 24 Edward I, Plea Roll no. 23, accessed on 2 February 2024.

<sup>36</sup> Most notable is Maurice fitz David, who was the brother of Milo fitz David, Baron of Iverk (Burtchaell GD, 1892. *The Geraldines of County Kilkenny. Part I. The Barons of Burnchurch*. *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 2, 358-376). Sir Reginald de Dene and Sir William le Waleis were prominent landowners in Co. Kilkenny and Co. Waterford, respectively (Curtis E, 1932, p.117; Parker C, 1992, p.207).

<sup>37</sup> A carucate is approximately 120 acres of arable land (Hardinge WH and Ridgeway T, 1864. *On Mapped Surveys of Ireland*. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, 8, 39-55).

implausible, and it would explain why ‘both’ held dower over the same estate. It is not far-fetched that Richard de Antōn may have married Anabilla-Sibilla after the death of John de la Rochelle<sup>38</sup>, however for Hugh to be the son of Richard and Anabilla-Sibilla would require the death of John de la Rochelle ca. 1284, since Hugh did not reach his majority until ca. 1299. Immediately after Margery de Rochelle died in 1289, a portion of her lands and manors were granted to Hugh de Bruges and John Rys<sup>39</sup>, who were instructed to “yearly answer therefor at the Exchequer, Dublin, according to the extent made thereof”. Rys made the relevant payments relating to the Escheatry until Easter 1299, when the holdings were transferred to Hugh de Antōn<sup>40</sup>, who by that time must have come of age.

The compilation of records for Richard de Antōn, that he was Sheriff of Waterford, intimately connected with Sir Walter de la Haye, who was perhaps his father-in-law, and the families de Rochelle and le Poer, and so gained lands in Co. Kilkenny, clearly establishes his position among the late-twelfth and early-thirteenth Norman-Irish gentry. The careers of his sons, Hugh and Elias, followed suit and are covered next.

### Sir Hugh, son of Richard de Antōn

Along with the aforementioned references, Hugh de Antōn is found in several early fourteenth-century Irish records. Hugh’s life was short, but he moved in the highest circles, as would be expected of a grandson of Sir Walter de la Haye. The le Poer connection was maintained – in 1305, “Hugh de Antone” was a witness to a grant by Eustace le Poer to William Fanning of the Manor of Mohober (Maigh Thobair), Co. Tipperary (Tiobraid Árann)<sup>41</sup>. And Hugh’s sphere went further; he was the subject of an Exchequer order to pay him “£59 10s 8d owed to him by recognizance of Richard Burgh”, Second Earl of Ulster and Third Baron of Connacht, “in the wardrobe”<sup>42</sup>.

Hugh was also followed by debt, and, as noted, some of this was inherited, such as that incurred by William Lawless, who was Richard de Antōn’s clerk during his term as sheriff<sup>17</sup>,

<sup>38</sup> Sibilla did not marry Herbert de Marisco until ca. 1306, i.e., after Richard de Antōn had died (NLI GO MS 192, Volume 4 of Genealogical and historical excerpts from the rolls of common pleas of the [common] bench in Ireland deposited in Bermingham’s Tower [Dublin Castle] from roll no. 173, 20 Edward III, accessed 14 February 2024).

<sup>39</sup> Hugh de Bruges was Sir Walter de la Haye’s valet who “had laboured much in the King’s service”, but he left for England in 1291 (Sweetman HS, 1879, p.218 and p.443). John Rys features numerous in Irish manuscripts; notable in this context are his appearances the Ormond Deeds between 1274 and 1309 concerning Knocktopher (Curtis E, 1932) – he was also Sheriff of Tipperary 1305-1306 (Waters KA, 2004. The Earls of Desmond in the Fourteenth Century [thesis], Durham University, pp. 326).

<sup>40</sup> Sweetman HS (1879), p.183.

<sup>41</sup> Curtis E (1932), p.156.

<sup>42</sup> CIRCLE 3/33/2/26, Close Roll 33 Edward I (1304-1305), Item 26, accessed, 31 January 2024. It is possible this record relates to another Hugh de Antōn who is found in records that date from 1260 to 1279, one of which states “Hugh de Anton, for his expenses in coming from Ireland to England with the son of Walter de Burgh, late Earl of Ulster, by order of the King, by writ: £3 13s 6d” (Connelly P, 1992. Irish Exchequer Payments, 1270-1326. Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission). The ‘son’ was Richard de Burgh, i.e., the same of the wardrobe payment. The approximately twenty five year gap of his appearance in records works against the two Hughs being the same person but, regardless, the earlier Hugh is notable for his connection to the de Burgh, as well as a record from ca. 1260 that has him with lands in Co. Limerick (Luimneach) (NAI RC 7/1/21, Plea Roll, 45 Henry III, Plea Roll no. 4, accessed 3 February 2024). This is discussed further in *Part II*.

while some debt was his own. In 1309, the Seneschal of Kilkenny ordered Hugh to pay a debt of four marks owed to the estate of Richard Bacoun<sup>43</sup>. More notable are entries in the Memorandum Roll of Edward II of 1308, which record the Seneschal of Kilkenny delayed a “demand of £37 on Hugh de Anton” who was mayor<sup>44</sup>. No other record has been uncovered that refers to Hugh as ‘mayor’; compiled lists of the Mayor of Kilkenny town do not include Hugh, but there are gaps, including for the years 1308 and 1309<sup>45</sup>.

The earlier mentioned quit claim of 1314 refers to Hugh as a knight<sup>10</sup>, a title he may have acquired on account of his deeds in Scotland. A record in the Judiciary Rolls of Edward II reads, “Hugh Datoun, knight, charged that he, together with other malefactors”, robbed various individuals, being abetted by Sir John de Sutton. Hugh received pardon “of grace and for the good service which [he] has often done and will hereafter do to the King”<sup>46</sup>. Hugh died before 22 May 1316, perhaps in 1315 during the Bruce invasion of Ulster<sup>47</sup>, but not without heir – an indenture of that date records Edmund Butler granting to Robert de Bendeville sixty acres of land in Kiltorcan (Cill Torcáin)<sup>48</sup>, “which came to him from the wardship of the heir of Sir Hugh Danton”<sup>49</sup>.

### Elias, son of Richard

In addition to the lands held by Richard and Sir Hugh de Antón, other lands in Co. Kilkenny came to Elias, son of Richard, via the same route, i.e., from the estates of John and Margery de la Rochelle<sup>29</sup>. Elias died before 1300<sup>50</sup>, and while there is no certainty Elias was the son of Richard de Antón, there is circumstantial evidence to posit as much, based on the future appearance of the given-name among ‘Daton’ records.

“Elyas Danton” appears in the Ormond Deeds as a witness to a Co.Kilkenny land transfer in 1328<sup>51</sup>, and “Elias Danton”, is found in a Close Roll of 1334, being fined 100s in the Liberty of Kilkenny “for pardon of certain felonies”<sup>52</sup>. In addition, the sons of “Elias Danton”, such as

<sup>43</sup> NAI EX 2/3/1/18/1, Memoranda Roll, 3 Edward II, membrane 18, dorse, accessed 3 February 2024. Bacoun was a cleric who held the prebend of Fennor (Fionnúir), Co. Tipperary in the early fourteenth century (NAI RC 7/9/11, Plea Roll, 30-31 Edward I, Plea Rolls no. 65, accessed 12 February 2024).

<sup>44</sup> NAI EX 2/2/2/25/1, Memoranda Roll, 1 Edward II, membrane 25, dorse, accessed 3 February 2024.

<sup>45</sup> Patterson T (2001). Sovereigns of the town of Kilkenny, 1282-1608. *Old Kilkenny Review*, 53, 29-35.

<sup>46</sup> Griffith MG (1952). Calendar of the Justiciary Rolls of Ireland I to VII Years of Edward II. Dublin: The Stationary Office, p.324-325. Sir John de Sutton is described as “The Lord of Mounemehennok”, i.e., Dunmanoge (Dún Mosheanóg), in Co. Kildare (Cill Dara).

<sup>47</sup> For background see, Smith, B (1989). The Bruce Invasion and County Louth, 1315-18. *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society*, 22, 7–15.

<sup>48</sup> Kiltorcan townland joins Ballyhale (Baile Héil), while the modern day villages of Ballyhale and Knocktopher are just one and a half miles apart. Ballyhale, once called Ballyhowell, is named after the well-known family of Howell (many of whom came to take the surname Walsh; Carrigan W, 1905 Volume IV, p.74) but only from ca. 1444 (Curtis E, 1935. Calendar of Ormond Deeds 1413-1509 AD. Dublin: The Stationery Office, p.104). Before then the name of Ballyhale is unknown but is probably the same place as the difficult to determine “Balihoneg” and “Balyhonegus”, that Margery de la Rochelle held one carucate of, which passed Richard de Antón and then to Hugh (NAI RC 7/4/1, 'Plea Roll, 24 Edward I, Plea Roll no. 24', accessed 10 February 2024).

<sup>49</sup> Curtis E (1932), p.210.

<sup>50</sup> Cullinan FJ (1906), p.78.

<sup>51</sup> Curtis E (1932), p.256.

<sup>52</sup> CIRCLE 5/8/2/25, Close Roll 8 Edward III (1334-1335), Item 25, accessed 4 February 2024.



“Elias fytz Ellyse Daton”, are found in Ormond Deeds from 1352. Moreover, in the early fifteenth century the former Parish of Kilmodalla is referred to as “the lands of fitz Elias Datoun”<sup>53</sup>. Hence, the Daltons of Kildalton likely descend from Elias, a grandson of Richard de Antōn – this is explored further in *Part III*.

The lands held by Elias, son of Richard, comprised one carucate in “Polsnekille”<sup>28</sup>, which is referred to alongside Adlangport or Lang(e)port<sup>54</sup>, which is in Co. Waterford, adjacent to the southern bank of the River Suir, approximately ten miles, as the crow flies, following the river, from Kildalton. Hence, ‘Polsnekille’ is most likely Portnascully (Port na Scoile). After Elias’ death, Portnascully reverted to the Baron of Iverk<sup>55</sup>. Longport-Woodstown was with the de la Rochelle and by 1378 had come to Sir Walter de la Rochelle, Lord of Fiddown; at that time, the ‘fitz Elias Datons’ were associated with leases of nearby lands<sup>53</sup>.

Other contemporaries, and possible kin or even brothers, of Sir Hugh and Elias de Antōn, found in the Justiciary Rolls of Edward II, are Robert and Thomas Daundon, most notably the former. In 1308, Robert, along with Philip and Eustace le Poer, stood “accused of certain trespasses and felonies” but received “the protection of the King's peace”, as “they [were] about to set out on the King's service to Scotland”<sup>56</sup>. Thomas was a knight and notable landowner in Co. Limerick<sup>57</sup>, which brings additional focus to that place.

### Looking backwards and forwards

*Part II* of ‘The Daltons of Kildalton’ takes a backward look from Richard de Antōn, Sheriff of Waterford. The previous reference to Hugh de Antōn in a Plea Roll of Henry III<sup>42</sup> makes mention of his lands in Co. Limerick. Was Richard Hugh’s son, and can he be pursued to Co. Limerick? Other Co. Limerick records of the baronage and gentry intrigue and provide clues to the pre-conquest origins of the de Antōn. For example, the de la Rochelle had a strong early presence in Co. Limerick<sup>58</sup> and they were also a prominent family of Co. Cornwall in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries<sup>59</sup>.

<sup>53</sup> Curtis E (1934), p.345, p.358.

<sup>54</sup> Dougherty JB (1905), p. 42; Sweetman HS (1879), p.218. Adlangport and Lang(e)port are derived from ‘Longphort’, “an earthen bank thrown up on the landward side to protect ships that had been drawn up on a beach or river-bank”. The site of a Longphort has been found in Co. Wexford in the townland of Woodstown (Baile na Coille) (Sheehan J, 2008. The Longphort in Viking Age Ireland. *Acta Archaeologica*, 97, 282-295.

<sup>55</sup> White NB (1932). *The Red Book of Ormond*. Dublin: The Stationary Office, p.135.

<sup>56</sup> Griffin MG (1952), p.116.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*, p.208.

<sup>58</sup> “Godfrey de Rupe” was constable of Limerick castle in 1219. Lenihan M (1866). *Limerick; its History and Antiquities*. Dublin: Hodges, Smith and Co. The surname de la Rochelle is found in variable forms such as de Rupella, Rockell, Rupe, and Roche, etc. The family of Sir Richard, Sheriff of Waterford (1254-1255) used ‘de Eu’ interchangeably with de la Rochelle, which is said to reflect their pre-English/Irish origins in the County of Eu, Normandy. The County of Eu (Comte d’Eu) was the creation of Richard I of Normandy, which incontrovertibly connects the surname de la Rochelle with that royal house (Larkin P, 2018. *The Lords of Aughrim manor*. *Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society*, 70, 82–100). However, it is hard to ignore that the first Norman knight to land in Ireland was Sir Richard fitz Godbert de Roche, who is said to have taken his toponym from the Parish of Roch, in Pembrokeshire, and is said to be of Flemish origin (Orpen GH, 1911. *Ireland Under the Normans*, Volume I. Oxford: Clarendon Press).

<sup>59</sup> An notable early member of the family of Co. Cornwall was “Sir Richard de Rupe”, Lord of Tremodrett (Yeatman JP, 1882. *The Early Genealogical History of the House of Arundell*. London: Mitchell and Hughes).

From Co. Limerick and Co. Cornwall come a flood of possible connections. The well-known Norman Irish family Arcedekne (Archdeacon) was prominent among the gentry and clerical lines in late medieval Co. Kilkenny, but some of the name are found elsewhere in Ireland from the early period. For example, the family supplied a Sheriff to Co. Waterford, William le Ercedekne, in 1261<sup>60</sup>. The Arcedekne family is said to have stemmed from Co. Cornwall, where they are found intermarried with the de la Rochelle<sup>61</sup>. In the context of the de Antōn surname, a highly notable Cornish location is the Parish of Antony, which is referred to as 'Antone' in the Domesday Book<sup>62</sup> – without question this is a plausible origin for the de Antōn of Ireland. The 'Tristram Notebook' records the names of various 'Barons and Soldiers of Co. Cornwall' at the time of Edward I. Two soldiers from the late thirteenth century are Thomas Ercedecne de Antone (in 1283) and Otho Lercedecne de Antone (in 1289)<sup>63</sup>. One might be forgiven for wondering if the suffixes attached to Otho and Thomas were toponymic, or patronymic, or both – the former is certainly the case since the family had a manor at East Antony<sup>64</sup>.

Y-DNA supports a Norman origin for 'Kildalton Daltons', who share common ancestry with those of Branam-like surnames from ca. 1100 AD<sup>64</sup>. It is considered the 'Branams' probably descend from the de Branham of Norfolk and entered Co. Kilkenny as part of the de Clare retinue – they were also of the gentry, and their first recorded member in Ireland, Sir Robert de Braham, was a Sheriff of Kilkenny ca. 1250<sup>65</sup>. Another Y-DNA association, at the root of the highly surname-specific 'Kildalton Dalton' single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP), R-A1496>FT12974>FT12563, is the surname Purcell, at R-A1496>FT12974\* – it is a well-known surname among the early Norman baronage, gentry, and clerical lines of Co. Limerick, Co. Kilkenny, and Co. Tipperary<sup>64</sup>.

Looking forward in time from Richard de Antōn, there are also Co. Limerick connections. Parker considers that "Richard Dandon", Sheriff of Co. Waterford ca. 1328, was a landholder in Co. Limerick, and that his brother, Thomas, who was sub-escheator for Co. Limerick in 1356, also held lands there<sup>24</sup>. The same Richard occurs as 'Richard Datoun, knight' in several mid-fourteenth century records relating to Co. Kilkenny and Co. Tipperary<sup>66</sup>, and he was probably the progenitor of the 'Ballynacronny Daltons'. These aspects are explored further in *Part III*.

## Acknowledgements

The author is grateful for the review comments and support of Karen Dalton Preston, Proinsias Mag Fhionnghaile CIOM ([www.gaelicattire.com](http://www.gaelicattire.com)), and Dr Esther Fitzpatrick.

---

<sup>60</sup> Parker C (1992), p.364.

<sup>61</sup> There was a Sheriff of Cornwall, "Thomas Erchedekney", as early as ca. 1206. Gilbert CS (1817). An Historical Survey of the County of Cornwall Vol. I. London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, and Brown, p.529.

<sup>62</sup> <https://opendomesday.org/place/SX3954/antony>

<sup>63</sup> Dallas J and Potter HG (1897). The Notebook of Tristram Risdon. London: Elliot Stock, p.206, p.208.

<sup>64</sup> Fitzpatrick, M (2021) Mac Giolla Phádraig Clerics 1394-1534 AD: Part I. The Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society 2, 42-65. [doi:10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety00521](https://doi.org/10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety00521)

<sup>65</sup> Fitzpatrick M and Fitzpatrick I (2021). The Similar-Sounding Surnames of Haplogroup R-BY140757. The Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society 2, 1-41. [doi:10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety00421](https://doi.org/10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety00421)

<sup>66</sup> Curtis E (1934), p.39.