



Although originally thought to be separate individuals and families there's now considerable circumstantial evidence that seems to tie together the following Repington / Repyngtons and thus make a very strong case for the familial link between the Repingtons and Rippingtons.

The evidence surrounds what is now considered to be just two individuals - father and son; William Repington Senior and William Repington Junior.

Essentially the evidence points to a commonality between the peerage Amington Repingtons and the so-called Lichfield Repyngtons.

The trail starts with **William Repington Senior:-**

- **Date of birth:-**

William Repington	1395	William Repyngton	before 1397
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The peerage birth date for William Repington agrees with a similar evidential extrapolated date-of-birth for William Repyngton.

- **Living:-**

William Repington	Near Amington	William Repyngton	Lichfield & Coventry
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William Repington purchased land in Amington, but the hall wasn't owned by the family until 1468. He also owned land in Whittington, but it's actually not documented where he was born, lived or died.

William Repyngton was living in Lichfield in 1416 and in Coventry between 1421 and 1425.

Tamworth and Whittington are between Lichfield and Coventry, all within a 30-mile radius.

- **Wife:-**

William Repington	Alicia Acton	William Repyngton	Alicia
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This is the strongest indicator that these are the same person - two William Repingtons living within a few miles of each other at the same time, both married to Alicia ...

- **Royal Connection:-**

William Repington	1435 - Auditor to Henry IV's third son, John of Lancaster, 1st Duke of Bedford.	William Repyngton	1421 - contributed 13s 4d towards the loan of £100 to Henry V - John of Lancaster's brother.
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One William worked for John, the other lent money to his brother Henry.

- **Buckinghamshire Connection:-**

William Repington	1438 - Royal grant of £10 per year from the estate of the Duke of Bedford - Kempton Manor, Middlesex.	William Repyngton	1431 - sold land in Datchet, Buckinghamshire - 9 miles from Kempton Manor.
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It's a long way from Warwickshire, but walking distance between Kempton and Datchet.

- **Nevill Family Connection:-**

William Repington	1451 - Auditor to Richard Nevill, Earl of Warwick.	William Repyngton	1452 - his son, William Junior was defending and victualling Roxburgh Castle, with Sir William Nevill - Richard's Uncle.
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This last connection links in nicely with **William Repington Junior:-**

- **Date of birth:-**

William Repington	Before 1425	William Repyngton	before 1425
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Different pieces of evidence point to the same date-of-birth of the two individuals.

- **Living:-**

William Repington	1462 - living in Amington. 1468 - recovered Amington Hall.	William Repyngton	1443 - Granted a tenement with the adjoining garden in Lichfield, in 'Robestrette', and living there until at least 1452.
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This is where things start to deviate; one living in a large hall, the other a tenement with a garden.

- **Wife:-**

William Repington	Married before 1462 to Emma Thurston of Great Waldingfield in Suffolk	William Repyngton	Married before 1472 to Matilda
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This is a total deviation between the two individuals, but the situation is definitely not clear-cut, because on 29th Oct 1465 '*William Repington and Emma remit all right to land at Lichfield*' - so this William definitely had an association with Lichfield. Emphasising the differences; according to records associated with Matilda she was a widow in 1490, but the peage record for William Repington gives his date-of-death as 1512(?).

Children:-

William Repington	John Repington Joane Repington Grace Repington	William Repyngton	William Repyngton Thomas Repyngton
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These two individuals definitely don't look like they're the same person, but by their parental associations listed above it seems they must have been.

William Repyngton clearly had links with the royal court by working with Sir William Nevill at Roxburgh castle; so he was clearly a grander person than his tenement living suggest.

William Repyngton Senior lived in Coventry between 1421 and 1425, his daughter-in-law Matilda lived there in 1490 and it's clear that at that time she had acquired significant money and lands by her subsequent bequeaths to her two sons.

Grandson Thomas Repyngton sold all tenements (note the use of plural) in 'Robestrete', Lichfield, on 28 Oct 1490 to Henry Willoughby - hence confirming his association with his parents William Repyngton (Junior) and Matilda. A minor point-of-note here is that although the family still owned the land in Lichfield up until this year Matilda is listed as living in Coventry - maybe this is a case of 'out-of-sight, out-of-mind' as far as William was concerned.

Conclusions:-

Based upon the above long list of evidence, by making the assumption that the two William Juniors are the same person there seems to be an inescapable conclusion - William lived a double life ... living at times with his formal wife, Emma, in their manor at Amington and then on other occasions with his (presumably bigamous) other wife Matilda in his tenement in Lichfield.

Come 1490 William is clearly considered as being dead to Matilda, but she does seem to have benefited from his money and lands and it therefore looks like that maybe she was paid-of by William, to live her life separate from him with her two sons.

What then comes as another major conclusion from all this though, is that with this common ancestry these two William Repingtons (Senior and Junior) are the progenitors of the Rippington family.

There's already good evidence that grandson Thomas Repyngton moved to London to become Thomas Rypynnton (who subsequently produced the City of London Rippingtons), plus there's also strong evidence that grandson William Repyngton became William Rypynnton and subsequently produced the Chiltern Rippingtons.

William Repyngton Senior had already been listed as William Rypynnton in a document in 1431, so this clearly is a prior example of the beginnings of the surname transition.



Addendum:-

Written evidence has now been found (see below) which confirms that the William Repyngton who lived in Coventry in 1429 (the Lichfield family) was indeed the Auditor for the Duke of Bedford - that is the same person as the peerage Amington William Repington - at last this directly proves that the two families are indeed the one and the same.

The Coventry Leet Book: OR Mayor's Register,

§ 14. Laur. Cook, Mayor. Accounts, etc., 1429. 121

Hit is to haue in mynde that the seyd Laurance, meyre, in the fest of seynt Thomas of Caunterbury last past, hathe reseyuod of William Repynton, auditor of the duke of Bedford, Cli. of the summe of the CC li., the whiche was lante to seyde Duke the tyme of Adam Deyster beyng meyre.⁵ The whyche Cli. the seyd Laurance hathe payd to hem that lant hit withe-Inne iij wekes after that he reseyuod hyt.⁶

July 7 or
Dec. 29.
The Duke of
Bedford pays
up £100.

In addition to this, Thomas Ry(p)pyngton who was the fishmonger in London (lately of Lichfield) in 1500, has now been found detailed on a document owning land in Lichfield in 1527 as Thomas Repyngton ... still as a fishmonger:-

*Records of the Dean and Chapter and Vicars Choral of Lichfield Cathedral
Gift by Thomas Repynton, fishmonger, and Joan his wife, one of the heiresses of John Bayly, smith, to John Colemore, subchanter, and to the vicars, of 18d in rents from a croft without the Bars, in Sondford Street.*

Date 1 Mar 1527

Sonford Street is now Sandford Street, Lichfield - a continuation of 'Robestrette'; that which was owned by his parents William and Matilda.

The reason for the link between these distant Midlands towns of Lichfield & Coventry and London has also now been found - apparently there was always a very strong commercial, political and royal tie between Coventry and London - the Register of the Guild of Coventry also details that Fishmongering was one of the most important trades between the two cities. At times Coventry had even been the capital of England - parliament was held there and various Kings visited on numerous occasions; which explains William Senior's presence there as Auditor to royalty.

It would have been very natural for the grandsons Thomas and William Re(y)pyngton to follow in their father's entrepreneurial spirit as merchants and make the move south to London ... incidentally closely following in the footsteps of Richard (Dick) Whittington - who'd also been a member of the Trinity Guild of Coventry and then subsequently became Lord Mayor of London 'where the streets were said to be paved with gold'