Hi Stan,

I have just checked all of my Courtney matches, including a match with a Mark Courtney, in my Ancestry DNA matches and when I checked out their respective family trees via Ancestry and Family Search, they all lead back to Broughton in Hampshire.

I have found that way back, although I don't know exactly when, it could be as early as 1200 or as late as 1600, my Penrose family were originally called Glover and in Norman times came from a place called Penrice in Glamorgan. The family had an alias which was Penrice. A Norman Knight of unknown name subdued and conquered the local Welsh population and King William 1 (The Conqueror) rewarded him with land at Penrice where he built a castle, which still exists today. The new Norman local population are likely to have adopted the Penrice surname at some point to indicate their original location, post the Norman Conquest (1066). Like the Glovers, the Courtneys were of Norman descent and as such were very likely to have had Scandinavian DNA.

Later, these Glovers from Penrice moved eastwards through Herefordshire and eventually settled in Temple Guiting (Knights Templar in origin) in Gloucestershire and in Crowle in Worcestershire, in which place they held a manor. The information about them on the net indicates they were pretty high up in Society and wealthy. At some point, for reasons unknown, they came to have the alias I have mentioned, perhaps to identify these Glovers who came from Penrice but it could be to do with a name change, for inheritance purposes or marriage or indeed anything! They became settled in Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire, strongholds of Scandinavian DNA of course. When any of them got married in Yorkshire and where some of them also seemed to re-locate to (usually Wheldrake) they were called Penrose. Their name in Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire was Penrice but become Penrose in Yorkshire. I have seen this in my own family in comparatively recent times where the first four baptisms in Hull, Yorkshire were in the name Penrose, where the records show the parents as John (my 3x Great Grandfather) and Nancy Penrose but the one recorded baptism of one of their children in Staffordshire (in Kingswinford, although UK censuses indicate he was actually born in Harborne in Staffordshire but which is now in Warwickshire, near Birmingham) is shown in 1798 as Joseph Penrice, son of John and Nancy Penrice. Some of John and Nancy's other children were born in Staffordshire and Worcestershire but their records seem to have been lost (they were non-conformists) and the the only records of them that appear to be extant are in the various UK censuses from 1841 onwards, where they are all recorded as Penrice.

One of the Glovers around in the 1620s and a brother of the Glovers I am descended from, was Ambrose Glover, born in 1628 in Hampshire who married a Joan Courtney (whose father was Roger Courtney) and for reasons unknown, Ambrose and Joan's family took the Courtney name and their children all bore that surname. One of their children was a son,John Courtney, born at Broughton in 1667. One of his sons, Robert, was born in Broughton in 1705. Robert's son, Thomas Courtney (later Reverend) was born in King William County in Virginia in 1743 and I believe Thomas's son John is the same John who was born in Virginia in 1775. Benjamin Courtney who was born in 1787 in Cowes Isle of Wight and who lived in Virginia could also trace his family back to Ambrose Glover mentioned above. His father

As an aside to the above breakthrough, sadly, I have to report that FTDNA Family Finder is not at all helpful in helping to identify how one might be related to the surnames set out in the matches because no other detail is provided except names. My Heritage is exactly the same. Names of DNA matches are provided but no other details are available. Even their family trees, which could have been helpful aren't because they don't provide any details except names.

Many thanks Stan. Let's hope we can get some movement on this. I still remain pretty confident that those that called themselves Glover when surnames became fixed came over to England at the Conquest or in the years that followed it. Hence I have found Glover Autosomal DNA matches, as I expected, in Kent and Sussex. The latter being where the Battle of Hastings took place and Kent being the County next to Sussex. It seems likely that some of those who eventually took the fixed surname of Glover would have stayed in and around those Counties and the Counties surrounding them and I guess that would also include Hampshire and Dorset. I have one 12 marker Y Glover match going back to the 1300s in Kent.

I believe the Courtney name in my case came about when a Glover married a Courtney and members of that family emigrated to Virginia in the middle to late 1600s bearing the new name. Hence my 12, 25, 37 and 67 Markers matches with various members of US Courtneys with my DNA.

Ken Penrose