

You will note that the two upper columns are outlined in heavy lines. These are the common progenitor and his descendants. "CP" stands for common progenitor, the one who is the head of the two lines of descendants. "S" is his son or daughter as the case may be; "GS" his grandson or granddaughter; "GGS" his great grandson or great granddaughter; "2GGS" his second great grandson or second great granddaughter, and so on down to his seventh great grandson or granddaughter.

All the diamonds inside these heavy lines show the relationship between his descendants. By following columns "1" from both sides of the chart we find they cross on the "B" diamond, showing that the sons of the common progenitor are brothers. By following columns "2" to the center we find they cross at the "1C" diamond, indicating that grandsons of the common progenitor are first cousins to each other. And so on down: his great grandsons are second cousins; his second great grandsons are third cousins; his third great grandsons are fourth cousins, etc.

Say you want to figure your relationship to a distant cousin. You are six generations removed from the common progenitor, or his fourth great grandson. Your distant cousin is the third great grandson of the common progenitor on another line. To figure your exact relationship simply follow columns "6" on one side and column "5" on the other side to where they CROSS and you will find you are fourth cousins, once removed.