



CLAN STRACHAN SOCIETY (WWW.CLANSTRACHAN.ORG)

Genealogy
Clan Strachan Society

June 2007

What is a First Cousin, Twice Removed?

by Jim Strachan, FSA Scot (June 2007)

At the Clan Strachan Society, one of the most common questions we are asked about is how to determine relationships.

Here, you'll learn how to figure out the relationships between family members using a simple chart.

If someone walked up to you and said "Howdy, I'm your third cousin, twice removed," would you have any idea what they meant? Most people have a good understanding of basic relationship words such as "mother," "father," "aunt," "uncle," "brother," and "sister." But what about the relationship terms that we don't use in everyday speech? Terms like "second cousin" and "first cousin, once removed"? We don't tend to speak about our relationships in such exact terms ("cousin" seems good enough when you are introducing one person to another), so most of us aren't familiar with what these words mean.

Relationship Terms

Sometimes, especially when working on your family history, it's handy to know how to describe your family relationships more exactly. The definitions below should help you out.

Cousin (a.k.a "first cousin"): Your first cousins are the people in your family who have two of the same grandparents as you. In other words, they are the children of your aunts and uncles.

Second Cousin: Your second cousins are the people in your family who have the same great-grandparents as you., but not the same grandparents.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Cousins: Your third cousins have the same great-great-grandparents, fourth cousins have the same great-great-great-grandparents, and so on.

Removed: When the word "removed" is used to describe a relationship, it indicates that the two people are from different generations. You and your first cousins are in

the same generation (two generations younger than your grandparents), so the word "removed" is *not* used to describe your relationship.

The words "**once removed**" mean that there is a difference of one generation. For example, your mother's first cousin is your first cousin, once removed.

This is because your mother's first cousin is one generation younger than your grandparents and you are two generations younger than your grandparents. This one-generation difference equals "once removed."

Twice removed means that there is a two-generation difference. You are two generations younger than a first cousin of your grandmother, so you and your grandmother's first cousin are first cousins, twice removed.

Instructions for Using a Relationship Chart

1. Look at the vertical row of the chart to find the ancestor you have in common with someone else in your family.
2. Look at the top row of the chart and find the first person's relationship to the common ancestor.
3. Determine where the row and column containing those two relationships meet.

Are Their If My	Parent	Grand Parents	2 x Grand Parents	3 x Grand Parents	4 x Grand Parents	5 x Grand Parents	6x Grand Parents	7 x Grand Parents	8 x Grand Parents	9 x Grand Parents	10 x Grand Parents
Parent	Sibling	Niece or nephew	Grand Niece or nephew	2 x Grand Niece or nephew	3 x Grand Niece or nephew	4 x Grand Niece or nephew	5 x Grand Niece or nephew	6 x Grand Niece or nephew	7 x Grand Niece or nephew	8 x Grand Niece or nephew	9 x Grand Niece or nephew
Grand Parents	Niece or nephew	1st cousin	1st cousin 1 x removed	1st cousin 2 x removed	1st cousin 3 x removed	1st cousin 4 x removed	1st cousin 5 x removed	1st cousin 6 x removed	1st cousin 7 x removed	1st cousin 8 x removed	1st cousin 8 x removed
2 x Grand Parents	Grand Niece or nephew	1st cousin 1 x removed	2nd cousin	2nd cousin 1 x removed	2nd cousin 2 x removed	2nd cousin 3 x removed	2nd cousin 4 x removed	2nd cousin 5 x removed	2nd cousin 6 x removed	2nd cousin 7 x removed	2nd cousin 8 x removed
3 x Grand Parents	2 x Grand Niece or nephew	1st cousin 2 x removed	2nd cousin 1 x removed	3rd cousin	3rd cousin 1 x removed	3rd cousin 2 x removed	3rd cousin 3 x removed	3rd cousin 4 x removed	3rd cousin 5 x removed	3rd cousin 6 x removed	3rd cousin 7 x removed
4 x Grand Parents	3 x Grand Niece or nephew	1st cousin 3 x removed	2nd cousin 2 x removed	3rd cousin 1 x removed	4th cousin	4th cousin 1 x removed	4th cousin 2 x removed	4th cousin 3 x removed	4th cousin 4 x removed	4th cousin 5 x removed	4th cousin 6 x removed
5 x Grand Parents	4 x Grand Niece or nephew	1st cousin 4 x removed	2nd cousin 3 x removed	3rd cousin 2 x removed	4th cousin 1 x removed	5th cousin	5th cousin 1 x removed	5th cousin 2 x removed	5th cousin 3 x removed	5th cousin 4 x removed	5th cousin 5 x removed
6x Grand Parents	5 x Grand Niece or nephew	1st cousin 5 x removed	2nd cousin 4 x removed	3rd cousin 3 x removed	4th cousin 2 x removed	5th cousin 1 x removed	6th cousin	6th cousin 1 x removed	6th cousin 2 x removed	6th cousin 3 x removed	6th cousin 4 x removed
7 x Grand Parents	6 x Grand Niece or nephew	1st cousin 6 x removed	2nd cousin 5 x removed	3rd cousin 4 x removed	4th cousin 3 x removed	5th cousin 2 x removed	6th cousin 1 x removed	7th cousin	7th cousin 1 x removed	7th cousin 2 x removed	7th cousin 3 x removed
8 x Grand Parents	7 x Grand Niece or nephew	1st cousin 7 x removed	2nd cousin 6 x removed	3rd cousin 5 x removed	4th cousin 4 x removed	5th cousin 3 x removed	6th cousin 2 x removed	7th cousin 1 x removed	8th cousin	8th cousin 1 x removed	8th cousin 2 x removed
9 x Grand Parents	8 x Grand Niece or nephew	1st cousin 8 x removed	2nd cousin 7 x removed	3rd cousin 6 x removed	4th cousin 5 x removed	5th cousin 4 x removed	6th cousin 3 x removed	7th cousin 2 x removed	8th cousin 1 x removed	9th cousin	9th cousin 1 x removed
10 x Grand Parents	9 x Grand Niece or nephew	1st cousin 9 x removed	2nd cousin 8 x removed	3rd cousin 7 x removed	4th cousin 6 x removed	5th cousin 5 x removed	6th cousin 4 x removed	7th cousin 3 x removed	8th cousin 2 x removed	9th cousin 1 x removed	10th cousin