

The story of "A Much Married Man"

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The following bit of comedy is taken from an early 20th century recording made to be played on a talking machine.

"I'm a very much married man. In fact I'm ever saw. I'll tell you all about it. Not long ago I fell in love with a charming widow who lived in her own house with a grown up daughter. Well I married the widow. As soon as I married the widow her daughter became my step daughter. Well, shortly after our marriage I extended an invitation to my father who was a widower, to come down and spend the holiday with us. The old gentleman came down and being in the same house with my wife and step daughter, he fell in love with my step daughter and married her. Now that's where the



trouble first commences. For as soon as my father married my step daughter the family seems to get big. For then my wife became my father's mother-in-law, my father my step son, and my step daughter my mother-in-law.

"Oh dear! That's not all. No there's more. A little while after that my wife had a little boy. That little boy being my son of course was my father's grandson. But because my father married my step daughter who was the boy's half sister he became his half brother. So my father's grandfather to his own brother and step daughter is grand mother to her half brother.

"Oh, that's not all. No, there's more. A little while after that my father's wife had a little girl. That little girl being my father's daughter of course, she was my sister. But because she was a daughter of my step daughter she became my granddaughter. So I'm grandfather to my own sister and my wife is grandmother to her own sister-in-law.

"Oh Dear, oh me, that's not all. No there's more. The case stands as this: I'm grandfather to my own sister my wife is granddaughter to her own sister-in-law, my father grandfather to his brother-in-law, my step daughter grandmother to her half brother. My wife is mother-in-law to her own father in law and my father is my step son. I'm grandfather to my sister. In fact I am my own grandfather. Oh I'm much married."

However on a more series note it is often hard

for people to understand the relationship of cousins once, twice and three times removed etc. The "removed" part comes about when you are not in the same generation and it can go on for generations to come.

For example, if your father had a brother he would be your uncle. If your uncle had a son he would be your first cousin. If your first cousin had a son he would be your first cousin once-removed. Your son and your first cousin three-times removed would be you second cousins once-removed. If you had a grandson he would be a fourth cousin to your first cousin three times removed.

Once you start figuring this all out it's sometimes surprising who and how many you are related to. Yes indeed, "... much married..."