De Villiers-Pama Notation

The De Villiers-Pama system allocates an alphabetic letter to each generation, followed by a number to each child in birth order. ... This De Villiers-Pama system is the standard for genealogical works in South Africa. It was developed in the 19th century by Christoffel Coetzee de Villiers and used in his three volume Geslachtregister der Oude Kaapsche Familien (Genealogies of Old Cape Families) and refined by Dr. Cornelis (Cor) Pama, one of the founding members of the Genealogical Society of South Africa.

eg. a1b5c1d3 a1: 1st generation (progenitor)

b5: 2nd generation, fifth child c1: 3rd generation, first child d3: 4th generation, third child