The 1rst son gets 1 coin + 1/7 of what is left,

So he gets [1+1/7(X-1)]

The 2nd son gets 2 coins + 1/7 of what is left,

So he gets {2+1/7[X-1-1/7(X-1)-2]}

They had shared their inheritance equally so:

 $[1+1/7(X-1)] = \{2+1/7[X-1-1/7(X-1)-2]\}$ 

X=36

So the 1rst son gets 1+5;

the 2nd son gets 2+4;

the 3rd son gets 3+3;

the 4th son gets 4+2;

the 5th son gets 5+1;

the 6th son gets 6;

This man had six sons and the estate was large 36 coins.