

PRODUCTS OF “ANONYMOUS” SPERM DONATIONS

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One sperm donor can potentially produce hundreds, if not thousands, of children. In the late 1940's and early 1950's, when the first inseminations (AI) were performed in humans, controlling the frequency of the utilization of semen was regulated only by the consciences of those physicians performing the feat.

Additionally, these physicians went to great lengths to conceal the identity of the sperm donors. This story is about one individual, Barry Stevens, and his quest to reveal the identity of his biological father, as well as find possible half-siblings. Barry did not find out that he was a product of artificial insemination until he was middle-aged and his “father” died. The news of the AI from his mother initiated his search for the sperm donor from whom he was conceived. Through some dedicated and difficult overseas record-searching, he located the probable clinic in which the procedure took place. Through creative means, he located many other individuals who thought they were divided into clans by kinship analysis software, the true identity of his sperm donor was revealed.

In the process of his discovery, it was also determined that the clinic involved appears to have utilized a fairly limited number of sperm donors in the AI procedures. This has created a large “family” for Mr. Stevens, which he recently brought together for a reunion to discuss their common heritage.