

Canadian family hold gender reveal party for transgender daughter

A family held a gender reveal party for their eight-year-old daughter - after she told them she no longer wanted to live as a boy.

Ella Scott, now eight, from Ontario, Canada, told her parents that she didn't feel like a boy inside two years ago, at the age of six.

Initially, her mother Nikki, 38, and dad Graham, 39, thought Ella might be going through a phase.

But then they realized she was serious - and held a gender reveal party to announce her journey to the extended family.

Ella Scott, now eight, from Ontario, Canada, told her parents that she didn't feel like a boy inside two years ago, and is now happy in her new identity - which is embraced by her whole family and friendship group

Ella Scott, pictured before her transition, always preferred friendships with girls and playing with Frozen toys to rough and tumble with her brother

Ella (pictured here with mother Nikki) is now at a new school where her classmates completely support her

Nikki said, 'With Ella it's like she always knew but we just didn't.

'We always knew she was a little different, when she was little as she was always friends with girls and played with Frozen toys.

'I have two other children, Ella's brothers, who play rough but Ella never wanted to join in.'

Nikki said the journey really began when Ella turned six.

Nikki said, 'At age six she wanted to start wearing girls clothes like skirts and dresses.

'I must admit I thought it might just be a phase.

'One Halloween we decided to let Ella pick her own costume and she wanted to be a cat so she wore a skirt and cat ears.

'Neither of us knew what the right thing to do was so we showed Ella books of trans people because she didn't have the words to say it.

'Eventually, she did. She said, "I'm not a boy, I don't feel like this inside".'

Ella prior to her transition, getting ready to play ice hockey. Her parents say she led the way on her own trans journey, with her parents Nikki, 38, and dad Graham, 39, following her lead

Ella (pictured here holding her youngest sibling Regan, now five) is the eldest of three

Nikki said she and her husband Graham were initially very confused over how to best treat their child.

'We were asking ourselves if she was too young and were we doing the right thing,' she explained.

'We wanted to ensure what we were doing wasn't harmful or damaging.'

The couple then arranged a consultation with a psychologist from their local child mental health centre Reach Out Centre for Kids.

They provided support to the parents, supporting them in letting Ella choose who she wanted to be.

Nikki added, 'From here we let Ella take the lead.

'In grade one she started using she/her pronouns, eventually growing her hair longer and wearing girls' clothing.

'Ella did get upset when her hair wasn't growing fast, but apart from that she is a very happy girl with an upbeat character and has been throughout her journey.'

After deciding to transition, Ella began growing her hair longer - becoming upset that it wouldn't grow quicker

Ella loves her new identity as a girl and has settled into her new school and uses she/her pronouns

The couple, along with Ella's two younger brothers, Teddy, six, and Regan, five, then decided to support Ella by hosting a gender reveal party to announce her journey to their extended family.

And it was a success - with wider relatives being very supportive.

They have all now stopped referring to Ella's old boy name, which her parents don't want to be made public.

Nikki added, 'Family gave her the most supporting and loving reaction as expected when she came out.

'It's her family, her home and that means her safe space.'

Despite being accepted by family and close friends, however, Ella did have to move school in order that she would be fully accepted in her new identity by her peers.

Nikki added, 'Grade one was confusing because some peers were saying she wasn't a girl.

'However, we chose to move Ella and the rest of our kids.

'Ella's new school was a perfect place for her to explore who herself further and her teachers have been so supportive too.

'She has a great group of friends around her as well.'

Initially Ella's parents thought she might be going through a phase, before realising she was serious

Girl power: Ella always knew she was a girl but for a long time her parents 'didn't see'

Ella (top right) pictured with her younger brothers, Teddy, six, and Regan, five

Nikki has now set up a page on Instagram documenting Ella's transition journey.

She added, 'When she transitioned I found loads of resources for youths but not for kids.

'In most local clinics the rules are that you need to start puberty before you can get in and that means Ella wouldn't qualify.

'I want parents to feel they have a safe space because we didn't have anyone else us to help at the start of our journey.

'My page is to raise awareness of transgender kids and a supportive community for the parents.'

List of people with the most children

This is a list of mothers said to have given birth to 20 or more children and men said to have fathered more than 25 children.

This section lists mothers who gave birth to at least 20 children. Numbers in bold and italics are likely to be legendary or inexact, some of them having been recorded before the 19th century. Due to the fact that women bear the children and therefore cannot reproduce as often as men, their records are often shared with or exceeded by their partners.

Total children birthed Mother or couple (if known) Approximate year of last birth Notes 69 Valentina and Feodor Vassilyev[1] 1765 Valentina Vassilyev and her husband Feodor Vassilyev are alleged to hold the record for the most children a couple has produced. She gave birth to a total of 69 children – sixteen pairs of twins, seven sets of triplets and four sets of quadruplets – between 1725 and 1765, a total of 27 births. 67 of the 69 children were said to have survived infancy. Allegedly Vassilyev also had six sets of twins and two sets of triplets with a second wife, for another 18 children in eight births; he fathered a total of 87 children. The claim is disputed as records at this time were not well kept. 57 Mr and Ms Kirillov 1755 The first wife of peasant Yakov Kirillov from the village of Vvedensky, Russia, gave birth to 57 children in a total of 21 births. She had four sets of quadruplets, seven sets of triplets and ten sets of twins. All of the children were alive in 1755, when Kirillov, aged 60, was presented at court.[2]: 6 As with the Vassilyev case, the truth of these claims has not been established, and is highly improbable. 53 Barbara and Adam Stratzmann 1498 It is claimed that Barbara Stratzmann (c. 1448 – 1503) of Bönningheim, Germany, gave birth to 53 children (38 sons and 15 daughters) in a total of 29 births by 1498. She had one set of septuplets, one set of sextuplets, four sets of triplets and five sets of twins. Nineteen of the children were stillborn, while the eldest surviving was eight years old in 1498.[3] As with the Vassilyev, Gravata and Kirillov cases above, the survival of any one of the offspring of the alleged multiple births is questionable, as is the likelihood of so many multiple births in an era before fertility treatments. 44 Mariam Nabatanzi Babirye 2016 Mariam Nabatanzi from Uganda gave birth to 44 children (43 survived infancy) by the age of 36. This included 3 sets of quadruplets, 4 sets of triplets and 6 sets of twins, due to a rare genetic condition causing hyperovulation. In 2019, at the age of 40, she underwent a medical procedure to prevent any further pregnancies.[4] 42 Elizabeth and John Mott 1720 Elizabeth Mott of Monks Kirby, Warwickshire, married in 1676 and produced 42 live-born children. She died in 1720.[5]: 13 41 Alice Hookes 1553[6] According to the inscription on a gravestone in Conwy Church cemetery, Gwynedd, North Wales, Nicholas Hookes (died 1637) was the 41st child of his mother Alice Hookes, but there were no further details.[5]: 13 39 Elizabeth and William Greenhill 1681 Thomas Greenhill was the last child of 39 by his mother Elizabeth (1615–1681) and William Greenhill. The family consisted of 7 sons and 32 daughters. Not only is this a large number of live newborns, but is unusual in that all but one pair of twins were single births.[citation needed] 35 Ms and Mr Harrison 1736 Ms Harrison, the wife of an undertaker residing in Vere Street, London, gave birth to her 35th child by one husband in 1736.[7] 33 Mary and John Jonas 1892 Mary Jonas (1814–1899) gave birth to 33 children, including 15 sets of boy–girl twins.[8] All were christened, but few reached adulthood. Ten children were still alive when their father John died in 1892.[9] 32 Moddie and Purcell Oliver 1959 Ms Moddie Mae Oliver, aged 50, wife of a Lumberton, North Carolina, sharecropper, was expecting her 33rd child in 1959. At that time, 22 of her children were alive.[10] 32 Maria Addolorata Casalini 1970 Ms Casalini (born 1929) of Brindisi, Italy, married at 17 and gave birth to her 32nd child on 11 November 1970. She had two sets of quadruplets, one of triplets, one of twins and nineteen single births. Only 15 children survived.[11] 32 Madalena and Rainundo Carnauba 1961[12] Madalena Carnauba of Celândia, Brazil married at 13 and gave birth to 32 children: 24 sons and 8 daughters.[13] 32 Maria Benita Olivera 1989 Ms Olivera (born 1939) of San Juan, Argentina, gave birth to her 32nd child on 31 January 1989. All children were believed to be alive at that time. [14] She was married twice, and had a set of triplets (born when she was 13) and two sets of twins.[15] 30 Rebecca Town 1851 Ms Town (1807–1851) of Keighley, Yorkshire, had 30 children, but only one reached age 3.[5] 28 Griffith and Elizabeth Johnson 1790 Elizabeth G Johnson was born in 1732 in Montgomery, Maryland. She married Griffith Johnson on 16 February 1766, in Annapolis, Maryland. They had 28 children in 31 years. She died on 30 January 1790, in Oldtown, Maryland, at the age of 58, and was buried there.[16] 28 Mabel Murphy 1949 Ms Murphy (born 1898) of Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh, N. Ireland was reported to have produced 28 children (12 stillborn) in 32 years of marriage by December 1949, but this claim has not been fully substantiated.[17] 27 Irene (née Cooke) and James Arthur Robinson 1936 Ms Robinson of Oyen, Alberta gave birth to her 27th child in 1936. She had 27 children, including six sets of twins in a 24-year period. Eleven children died as babies.[18][19] 27 Marie-Elise (née Chamberland) and Heliodore Cyr 1959 Marie-Elise Chamberland and Heliodore Cyr married in 1928 and had 27 children by 1959, all single births. 19 of them survived to adulthood.[20] Mr Cyr, a potato farmer from Saint-François-de-Madawaska, New Brunswick,[21] appeared on the TV show I've Got A Secret three times – after the births of his 25th, 26th and 27th children.[22] 26 Marilouise (Landry) and William Croteau 1919 (c.) Marilouise and William Croteau had 26 children in St. Patrice-de-Beaurivage, Québec including six sets of twins. Two died as infants, one at 10 months, and one at four years. 21 survived to adulthood. The last to survive was Madeleine Croteau Houle who lived to be 102 and died on January 31, 2021.[23] 25 Wéber Andrásné Sziretek Teréz 1899 Ms Wéber (b. 30 September 1855) of Csömör, Hungary gave birth to 25 children between 1872 and 1899. She was awarded with a silver medal on 20 August 1930 on the 'Magyar anyák nemzeti ünnepe' (Hungarian Mothers National Day).[24][25][26] 25 Lapa Piagenti and Giacomo di Benincasa 1347 (c.) Their 23rd child was Saint Catherine of Siena.[27] 25 Ada Watson 1931 Ms Watson (1886–1974) of Cambridge gave birth to 25 children, including three sets of twins, during the period 1904–1931. All of the children attained majority.[5] 24 Kathleen Scott 1958 Ms Scott (b. 4 July 1914) of Dublin gave birth to her 24th child on 9 August 1958. Twenty of her children were still alive in 1990.[14] 24 Marcella S. (née Mills) Big Crow and James M. Big Crow Sr. 1989 (c.) Marcella Mills-Big Crow (1924–1989) of Pine Ridge, South Dakota, had 24 children, including eight pairs of twins. Five children died in infancy. [citation needed] 23 Christine of Mecklenburg-Güstrow and Louis Christian, Count of Stolberg-Gedern 1705 The great-great-great-grandmother of Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom had 23 children in 19 pregnancies between 1684 and 1705 (including four sets of twins); 11 of them survived to adulthood.[28] 23 Queen Darejan and King Heraclius II of Georgia 1807 (c.) They had a total of 23 children, 13 of whom lived to adulthood.[29] 23 Tabatha Marcum and Silas Mainord 1811 (c.) Married in 1811, they lived in Overton County, Tennessee, and produced 23 children. One of their daughters, Syreana, later became the mother of 17. [30] 23 Grace Bagnato 1938 Grace Bagnato and her husband had 23 children; nine of them were conceived in order to compete for a bequest by a Toronto eccentric, in what became known as the Great Stork Derby.[31] 23 Irene and Charles DeMello 1958 Irene DeMello of Tiverton, Rhode Island, gave birth to her

23rd child in February 1958 at the age of 40 in her 25 years of marriage. There were no multiple births. Seventeen of the children were alive, the eldest being 23.[32] 23 Mary and Sylvester Hemsing 1951 (c.) Mary Hemsing (1913–2014) of Rolling Hills, Alberta, Canada, gave birth to 11 boys and 12 girls, one of whom was stillborn.[33] 22 Ursula and Franz Adolf Dietrich von Ingelheim [de] 1712 The German Count Franz Adolf Dietrich von Ingelheim (1659–1742) of Mainz and his wife Ursula (1668–1730) had 22 children between 1683 and 1712.[34] 22 Lady Emily FitzGerald 1778 Emily FitzGerald, Duchess of Leinster and her first husband James FitzGerald, 1st Duke of Leinster, had nineteen children born between 1748 and 1773. Later she married her children's tutor William Ogilvie; they had three children, who were born between years 1775 and 1778.[35] 22 Ms and Mr Hostetter 1941 Roy Hostetter, a 46-year-old Pennsylvania miner, and his wife, aged 42, announced the birth of their 22nd child in May 1941.[36] 22 Charlotte and Marlon Story 1946 Charlotte Story of Bakersfield, California, gave birth to her 22nd child in July 1946. At the time, 19 of the other 21 children, including four sets of twins, were alive.[37] Marion and Charlotte Story participated in *You Bet Your Life* in 1950.[citation needed] 22 Ms Dick Renata 1948 Ms Dick Renata, a Maori, of Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, gave birth to her 22nd child in November 1948. Fourteen of her children survived, including the second born, who was 21 at the time she gave birth to the 22nd, and was himself a father.[38] 22 Madeleine and Marce Devaud 1952 Madeleine Devaud, wife of a village dairyman of La Gorre, western France, gave birth to her 22nd child, a boy, in March 1952, at the age of 42. The Devaud couple, married for 24 years, had 13 girls and seven boys. Two other children died in infancy.[39][40] 22 Mabel Constable 1950 (c.) Ms Constable (born 1920), of Long Itchington, Warwicks, gave birth to 22 children, including a set of triplets and two sets of twins.[41] 22 Margaret McNaught 1945 (c.) Ms McNaught (born 1923), of Balsall Heath, Birmingham, gave birth to 22 children, 12 boys (2 of them died in infancy) and 10 girls, all single births.[5] 22 Effie (née Estes) and Charles Dickey 1914 (c.) From Clinton, Maine, Ms Dickey gave birth to 22 children, all single births. All of them lived to adulthood, with 18 of them living at least 70 years of age (the others died at ages 30, 58, 60 and 67).[42] 22 Unidentified Romani woman 1998 A 38-year-old Romani woman of Lom, Bulgaria, gave birth to her 22nd child in March 1998. She and her husband had no jobs. 17 children lived with them and five were in orphanages.[43] 22 Alice (née Spencer) & John Jennings 1660 (c.) Jennings was an MP of St. Albans before the English Civil War. He names 3 of these children in his will, dated 1642, and his wife's will names 7 of them, dated 1663. Their granddaughter was Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough.[44] 22 Sue and Noel Radford 2020 Sue (Suzanne) Radford has given birth to 22 children as of April 2020, 11 boys and 11 girls, all single births. Alfie (their 17th) was stillborn. At this time, their eldest son (Christopher) is 30 years old. They have six grandchildren. They have a bakery which is the family business and live in Morecambe, Britain. All of them are healthy and thriving.[45] 21+ Mary Susannah Roberts (née Sautelle) and John Roberts 1749 (c.) 18th-century Irish architect and his wife. Of their children, said to number 21 or 24, only eight survived to adulthood, including the painters Thomas Roberts and Thomas Sautelle Roberts.[46][47] 21 Johanna O'Sullivan and William O'Daly 1837 They had 21 children in 29 years, 6 sons and 15 daughters, born between 1808 and 1837 in Gurrane, Currans, County Kerry, Ireland. There were no multiple births, and all of the children were born alive - it is likely that there were a number of stillborn children too. Four children died in childhood, and the last child, Bridget Russell, died in 1923. Descendants of Johanna and William include Commandant General Charlie Daly, Senator Mark Daly, Senator Lorraine Clifford-Lee, and Siobhán Fleming, captain of the Munster Women rugby team.[48][49] 21 Barbara Bremner and Thomas Burns 1978 Barbara and Thomas resided in Rogers Park on the north side of Chicago. Barbara gave birth to 21 single birth live children. She had her first daughter in 1951, and last in 1978. They supported their children on Tom's salary as an electrician, and Barbara ran a secretarial and phone-answering service, called Barb's Wire, from her home for many years. All 21 children reached adulthood.[50] 21 Olivia (née Whitmore) and Arthur Guinness 1783[51] Guinness was an Irish brewer. Only ten of their children lived to adulthood.[52] 21 Ann Clark Skerrett and Jeremiah Lear 1812 Their 20th child was English artist, illustrator, musician, author and poet Edward Lear (born 1812).[53] 21 Olivia (née Gutenberger) and Rudolph Schoelzel Sr. 1949 They had 21 children in 24 years, 11 sons and 10 daughters, born between 1925 and 1949 in Colby, Wisconsin, USA. There were no multiple births. One daughter died in infancy, and one son died in 1947, aged 21.[54] 21 Domitille (née Brun) and Pierre Martin 1861 They had 21 children in 25 years, 11 sons and 10 daughters, born and baptized between 1835 and 1861 in Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville, Québec, Canada. There were no multiple births.[55][unreliable source?][56] 21 Teodora (née Lopez) and Raymundo Olivas 1853 (c.) Born in 1809 in Los Angeles, Raymundo Olivas met his future wife, Teodora Lopez, in Santa Barbara. They were married in 1832, and together they had 21 children – 13 boys and eight girls. In 1841 Raymundo built the Olivas Adobe, an important part of Ventura city's cultural heritage.[57] 21 Josephine & Michael Salzo Sr. 1923 (c.) The 21 children included the first known surviving set of quadruplets in New Haven, Connecticut; triplets; and two sets of twins.[58] 21 Anna and Henry Crocker 1963 (c.) 18 of their children lived to adulthood.[59] 21 Ms and Mr Albert Cunningham 1930 The couple from Iron Mountain, Michigan, welcomed their 21st child in September 1930 after 27 years of marriage. Seventeen of their children were alive.[60] 21 Mary Chaloner Hale 1789 The wife of General John Hale (1728–1806), Mary Hale (1743–1803, born Mary Chaloner in Guisborough, Yorkshire, England) bore 21 offspring between the years of 1764 and 1789, including her first child, John Hale.[61] 21 Elizabeth Hudson 1955 Ms Hudson, of London, the wife of a paint sprayer, gave birth to her 21st child in February 1955, at the age of 45. Sixteen of the children were alive.[62] 21 Mary and Wara Tengu 1968 The Maori couple from Hamilton, New Zealand, welcomed their 21st child in January 1968; the mother was then 42 years old. They already had five grandchildren.[63] 21 Ofelia Llanes Gaxiola 1960 (c.) Ms Ofelia Llanes Gaxiola, of Culiacán, Sinaloa. the wife of a postman, gave birth to her 21 children.[64] 21

Mississippi, had a total of 20 children. The youngest of them was American voting rights activist, civil rights leader, and philanthropist Fannie Lou Hamer, born in 1917.[83] 20 Gertrude Louisa Rowe Goodley and George Thomas Jolley 1932 Gertrude and George married in 1905 and had 20 children between 1906 and 1932, when Gertrude was aged 46. The family were from the Tolaga Bay area on New Zealand's North Island.[citation needed] Issue 227 of the Gisborne Photo News carried a report in 1973 about a reunion of 140 of their descendants and noted that they had 215 direct descendants at that time.[84] 20 Mary and John Fullerton 1935 (c.) Mary and John Fullerton from County Donegal, Ireland, had 20 children, the eldest of whom was Eddie Fullerton, born in 1935.[85] 20 Ms and Mr Rexford Oakley 1954 Ms Oakley, aged 54, from Scranton, Pennsylvania, gave birth to her 20th child in December 1954. 18 of the children, including the newborn, were alive.[86] 20 Zola Inez (née Sutterfield) and Harvey Auston Smith 1956 Ms Smith (born 1 September 1910) gave birth to her 20th child in Mountain View, Arkansas, in May 1956, at the age of 45. She and her husband, married for 29 years, had 14 sons and six daughters, all single births. Three sons died in infancy. By April 1973 they had 35 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.[citation needed] 20 Rose Alma and Roland Letendre 1956 (c.) The couple had 20 children; the youngest died as a result of birth injury. All the children were born in Drummondville, Quebec.[citation needed] Rose Alma died at age 100 in 2018.[87] [self-published source?] 20 Ms and Mr Edward Bitter 1958 Ms Bitter, aged 40, the wife of a bricklayer, from Covington, Kentucky, gave birth to her 20th child in January 1958. Four of their children, including a set of twins, were dead. The other 16 were 10 boys and six girls; the oldest of them was 24.[88] 20 Dolores and Prosper Grenier 1961 Dolores Grenier, aged 43, of Waterville, Maine, gave birth to her 20th child in April 1961. During 26 years of marriage she gave birth to 12 sons and eight daughters, including three sets of twins. Two daughters have died.[89] 20 Eldora and James Parnell 1966 Eldora Parnell, aged 42, of Bakersfield, California, gave birth to her 20th child in November 1966, after 27 years of marriage.[90] 20 The mother of Maria Goncales Moreira 1984 Not much is known about this case except the fact that she had ten sets of twins. Her daughter also had ten sets of twins (see below).[91] 20 Maria Goncales Moreira 1984 Ms Moreira of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, gave birth to her tenth set of twins (identical boys) on 3 July 1984. Her other twins were 16 girls and two boys. She delivered the first at age 13. Her mother also had ten sets of twins.[91] 20 Jessie Campbell 1990 Ms Campbell (born 1946) of Struan, Isle of Skye, Scotland, gave birth to her 20th child on 22 January 1990.[92] 20 Julianna and Ernő Lukács 1991 Julianna Lukács and her husband, a Hungarian farmer, have six sons and fourteen daughters. They live in Tolna, Hungary, in a mansion farming on 3,336 acres (1,350 ha). The first child was born in 1966 and the last in 1991.[93] 20 Valentina and Anatoly Khromykh 1993 (c.) Valentina Khromykh from Lev-Tolstovskiy District, Lipetsk Oblast, Russia, gave birth to 20 children, 11 boys and 9 girls. As of May 2015, 15 of the children were alive (two died in infancy and other three at the ages of 12, 28 and 32), the oldest child was 46 and the youngest was 22. Also by May 2015, Valentina was 64, she had been married to Anatoly Khromykh for 46 years, and they already had ten grandchildren.[94] 20 Elena and Alexander Shishkin 2003 Elena Shishkina (born 1958) of Voronezh Oblast, Russia, gave birth to her 20th child in April 2003, becoming the most prolific mother in Russia; her eldest son was 24 at that time. The Shishkins have 9 sons and 11 daughters, and had 20 grandchildren by November 2012.[95] 20 Marie and Antonín Kludský 1909 (c.) Marie (1832–1909) and Antonín Kludský (1826–1895) from Bohemia were parents of 20 boys and ancestors of the famous cirque family Kludský.[96] 20 Georgiana Văcaru 2020 (c.) Georgiana Văcaru (born 1976) from Stoenești, Argeș is the woman with the most children in Romania.[97] 20 Maria (née Potter) and James Burton 1871 (c.) Maria (1812–1871) and James Burton (1811–1888) of Coggeshall, Essex in England were parents to 20 children, 9 died in infancy and another 2 died young [citation needed] 20 "Dorothea" 1550 (c.) Dorothea, an Italian woman who lived at the time of Ambroise Paré, reportedly delivered 20 children in 2 exceptionally large pregnancies. She first carried 9 children, and then 11. It is unknown whether the children survived.[98]

This section lists men who have produced at least 25 or more children, usually with different women. Males who have fathered large numbers of children through medical sperm donation are difficult to record. Numbers in italics are inexact, particularly of rulers of antiquity.

Total births Father's name Approximate year of last birth Notes 1,000–2,000+ Genghis Khan 1227 (c.)[a] From various sources one can conclude that Genghis Khan fathered over a thousand children.[99] He had a large harem of women he considered beautiful whom he captured or acquired in some other way, reaching numbers of about 2,000 to 3,000.[100] 868+ Moulay Ismail Ibn Sharif 1727 (c.)[b] The monarch of Morocco who had a harem of 500 women, and fathered 525 boys and 342 girls. In total, Guinness World Records calculated the most children to one father at 1042.[101] A research team at the University of Vienna suggested 1171.[102] 800+ Simon Watson British sperm donor, made headlines in 2016 for claiming to have sired over 800 children. He regularly posts updates of his new children to Twitter. In 2018, a child of Watson took a DNA test and matched with 40 siblings. Made headlines again in 2019 for getting 13 women pregnant in just 26 days.[103][104] 600–1000 Bertold Paul Wiesner This scientist fathered up to 1000 children by artificial insemination by donor through the medical practice of his second wife Mary Barton, between 1942 (or earlier) and 1967. He also is the father of Eva Ibbotson by his first wife Anna Gmeyer, and two children by Mary Barton.[citation needed] 365–382 Augustus II the Strong Augustus was Elector of Saxony, king of Poland. With his wife Christiane Eberhardine of Brandenburg-Bayreuth he had one son, Augustus III of Poland. He had numerous children with his mistresses, but only 11 were recognized, one of whom is Maurice de Saxe French Marchal-General office France, the great-grandfather of George Sand.[105] up to 300 Paul Elden Kingston Paul Kingston is the leader of the Latter Day Church of Christ, also known as the Kingston Clan or The Order in Utah.[106] 210 King Sobhuza II King of Swaziland (now Eswatini), lived 1899–1982, is thought to have had 70 wives.[citation needed] 180+ Jonathan Jacob Meijer Dutch musician who, in his 30s, may have fathered 200 children through sperm donation. The director of the Dutch Donor Child Foundation, told the Times that his offspring could number several hundred or even 1,000.[107] 177 Sultan Ibrahim Njoya He was King of Bamum in Cameroon, lived 1860–1933, and is thought to have had 'around 600' wives. He was said to have had 149 children by December 1915.[108] 170+ Mohammed Bello Abubakar Mohammed Bello Abubakar (1924–2017) of Nigeria married 86 women and had 170 children with them before being arrested in 2008 for polygamy for having more than four wives.[109] though he was released later in 2008.[citation needed] 162+ Ramesses II Egyptian pharaoh; see list of children of Ramesses II 160+ Ancentus Ogwella Akukujalama This Kenyan polygamist, known as 'Danger', lived 1916–2010; he married 'more than 100 times' and had fathered 'at least 160 children'. [110] An unsubstantiated article from the East African Standard claimed he had 210 children: 104 daughters and 106 sons, by some 130 wives.[111] 158 Jack Kigongo Kigongo lived in Katerera, Uganda, 1909–2014; he had 27 wives, and when he died aged 109, had around 501 grandchildren.[112] 153 Don Reynaldo A Costa Rican business magnate who is said to have fathered 153 children between 1950 and 2005.[citation needed] 150 Joe Donor As of July 2018, a 47-year-old man using the pseudonym Joe Donor claimed to have fathered up to 150 children by using a Facebook page to connect with women looking for free sperm, generally by having sex with "Joe" rather than through costly artificial insemination (though some customers do prefer syringes of his sperm).[113] At the time of a 2014 interview on the television newsmagazine 20/20, Joe had already claimed 30+ successful childbirths from having sex with 100 different women requesting his free-sperm-via-intercourse offer.[114] 150 Anonymous sperm donor As of September 2011, an American sperm donor was found to have produced at least 150 children.[115] This was the inspiration for the 2011 Canadian film *Starbuck* and its 2013 American remake *Delivery Man*. [citation needed] 149 Osman Ali Khan, Asaf Jah VII, the last Nizam of Hyderabad He is reported to have had 149 children.[citation needed] 145+ Winston Blackmore Leader of the Mormon fundamentalist sect called the Blackmore/Bountiful Community,[116] he fathered children through as many as 25 wives.[117][118] 144 Miên Đình, Prince of Thọ Xuân Son of Minh Mạng, fathered 144 children, including 78 sons and 66 daughters.[119] 142 Emperor Minh Mạng He is reported to have fathered 142 children from 400 wives.[119] 128 Misheck Doctor Nyandoro Nyandoro, a Zimbabwean man living in Chipinge, currently has 15 wives and 128 children.[120] 120 Bodawpaya King of Burma, fathered 62 sons and 58 daughters[citation needed] 117 John Robert Dunn John Robert Dunn (1834–1895), a South African hunter and trader, was already married when he became an adviser to the Zulu king Cetshwayo, who granted him land, cattle, a chieftainship and two Zulu brides. He married 46 more Zulu women and fathered 33 sons and 46 daughters.[citation needed] 106–115 Saud of Saudi Arabia King Saud, son of Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia, lived 1902–1969. According to one source he had 52 sons and about 54 daughters from 'a wider range of women' than his father (who had 22 wives);[121] however, another source credited him with 115.[122] 114 Matteo Valles One of America's most well known sperm donors. Although he is retired now, at age 25 he is estimated to have 114 children. This initially came to light due to starring on ABC's *The Bachelorette* Season 15.[123] 114 Miên Trinh, Prince of Tuy Lý Another son of Minh Mạng, fathered 77 sons and 37 daughters.[119] 114 Ed Houben Houben was Europe's most prolific sperm donor. He advocates the use of natural methods.[124] 110 Mindon Min King of Burma, fathered 110 children.[citation needed] 108+ Fath-Ali Shah Qajar The second Shah of the Qajar dynasty of Iran, Fath-Ali (1772–1834) had 48 daughters and 60 sons 'who survived infancy', as a result of the 160+ marriages by which he had consolidated his control over the country. Many of his descendants went on to become prominent figures.[125] 106+ John Daniel Kingston A member of a fundamentalist Mormon

group, Kingston had 106 children by 14 wives as of 2004.[126] 100+ Murad III It was said that Murad III fathered over a hundred children.[127]: 31–32 101 Bindusara Emperor Bindusara had 101 sons (one of them was Emperor Ashoka) from his 16 wives [citation needed] ≥100 Ari Nagel The American maths professor has fathered more than 100 children via sperm donation. [128][129] ≤100 Augustus John The Welsh painter is widely reported to have fathered 'up to 100 children', mostly outside marriage, although some believe that this figure is greatly exaggerated. [130] 64–99 Juan Vicente Gomez Juan Vicente Gomez was the dictator of Venezuela from 1908 to 1935. He had sixteen children with his two mistresses, and several others in affairs. [citation needed] 98 Dr. Donald L. Cline, MD An American fertility doctor who illegally used his own sperm to impregnate his customers since the 1970s. DNA has been shown to link 94 siblings so far [131][132] (in addition to the 4 children he had with his wife). 96 Daad Mohammed Murad Abdul Rahman Balochi-Emirati who wants to have 100. He has married wives from different countries too. [133][134] 94 Ziona Leader of the religious sect Pu Chana páwl, in the Mizoram state of India, has 94 children with 39 wives, as well as 33 grandchildren, and has, according to the Guinness Book of Records, the world's largest family. [citation needed] 87 Feodor Vassilyev Feodor Vassilyev, a peasant from Shuya, Russia, had 69 children with his first wife and 18 with his second. At least 82 of his children survived infancy. [135] 86 Trần Việt Chu A peasant from Hải Lăng, Quảng Trị (Vietnam), he had 86 children with 12 wives. [136] 82 Mongkut (Rama IV) King Mongkut, Thailand's fourth monarch, had 32 wives and concubines during his lifetime who produced at least 82 children. [137] one of whom was Chulalongkorn. See list of children of Mongkut. 82 Jan Karbaat Dutch fertility doctor who used his own seed to impregnate patients. He has 11 children from his marriage, 22 donor children which were DNA-matched before his death, and an additional 49 children which were DNA-matched via sibling DNA matching after his death. [138] 77 Chulalongkorn (Rama V) King Chulalongkorn, Thailand's fifth monarch, had 92 consorts during his lifetime who produced 77 children. [137] of whom 33 were sons and 44 were daughters. See list of children of Chulalongkorn 75 Tokugawa Ienari Shogun Ienari, 11th shōgun of Tokugawa Shogunate, had 75 children from 900 women. He is the father of Tokugawa Ieyoshi 75 Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia King Abdulaziz, the first monarch of Saudi Arabia, lived 1876–1953; he had 45 recorded sons and about 30 daughters from 22 wives and concubines. By 2001 he had 2,500–3,500 direct descendants. [121] See descendants of Ibn Saud. 75 Screamin' Jay Hawkins Hawkins, a rock and roll singer, had 57 confirmed children, possibly as many as 75. [139] 75 Cecil Byran Jacobson This fertility doctor was suspected of fathering as many as 75 children by impregnating patients with his own sperm. [140] During trial 15 children were confirmed his through DNA. [141] 74 Ben Seisler Seisler, who spent three years donating sperm to a Virginia sperm bank to offset law-school expenses, recently learned that his donations had produced 74 children. [142] 73 Phuttha Loetla Naphalai (Rama II) King Phuttha Loetla Naphalai, Thailand's second monarch, had 73 children with 40 women. [137] 72 Emperor Huizong of Song Emperor Huizong of Song, Emperor of the Song Dynasty, fathered 38 sons and 34 daughters from 148 wives. [citation needed] 72 Ramon Revilla Sr. Ramon Revilla Sr. was a Filipino actor and politician. He was known as the "Hari ng Agimat" (literally "King of Amulets") in Philippine films. With his extramarital affairs, his children numbered at least 39; Bong's spokesperson Portia Ilagan claimed that the number reached 72. In a 2004 interview with journalist Jessica Soho, Revilla admitted that he probably has more than 80 children. [143] 72 Mehtar Aman ul-Mulk Aman ul-Mulk, ruler of Chitral, now part of Pakistan (1821–1892), is known as the Lot Mitar or Great Mehtar. He had 72 children, as reported in Tribes of the Hindoo Koosh by Biddulph. [citation needed] 70 "Louis", a Dutch sperm donor A Dutch man born 1949/50 in the Netherlands to a Dutch mother and Surinamese father and raised in Suriname, Louis is a pseudonym. He donated between the 1982 and 2002 at three clinics, far exceeding the current limit of 25 donations. 70 live births are confirmed, of whom he has met 40 since 2011, but he estimates 200 in total; he doubts another estimate as high as 1000. [144] 66 John II, Duke of Cleves Duke of Cleves and called "the Babymaker" (German: der Kindermacher) for fathering sixty-three illegitimate children before his marriage to Mathilde of Hesse, with whom he had three children. [145] 65 Heber C. Kimball First Counselor of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he fathered children through 17 of his 43 wives. [146] 65 Rulon Jeffs President of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, he fathered children, including Warren Jeffs, with as many as 75 wives. [147] 65 Christopher Layton 1896 President of the St. Joseph Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Thatcher, Arizona, and colonizer of multiple settlements in Arizona and Utah. He had 65 children with 10 wives. [148] 64 John W Hess Lived 1824 to 1903 and was the President of the Davis Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1894. Fathered 64 children with 7 wives as noted in his autobiography. [149] His obituary indicated 65 children. [150] 64 Thiệu Trị Emperor of Vietnam, he fathered children through 24 wives. [citation needed] 62 Khuwaja sahib Khuwaja sahib from jib district of udhampur, he had 62 children from just 2 wives. Some of his famous children are Gafoor and Sheena. [citation needed] 61 Norodom of Cambodia King of Cambodia, he fathered 61 sons and daughters with 47 wives. [citation needed] 61 Kashemsanta Sobhaga Thai royal, son of Mongkut, fathered 39 sons and 22 daughters. [citation needed] 60 Warren Jeffs President of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, he fathered children through as many as 70 wives. [147] 59 Emperor Xuanzong of Tang Emperor Xuanzong of Tang, Emperor of the Tang Dynasty, fathered 30 sons and 29 daughters with numerous wives. [citation needed] 58 Thado Minsaw Prince of Burma, fathered 32 sons and 26 daughters [citation needed] 58 Pinklao Thai royal, Front Palace [citation needed] 58 Gennadij Raivich Professor of perinatal neuroscience and private sperm donor, he fathered 58 children. [151] 56 John Doyle Lee Utah pioneer and early leader of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he had 18 wives and 56 children. [152] 56 Brigham Young President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he fathered 56 children through 16 of his 55 wives. [153] 55 Kangxi Emperor A Chinese emperor of the Qing dynasty who lived 1654–1722, he fathered 35 sons and 20 daughters from numerous wives and concubines. [citation needed] 55 Peregrine Sessions A member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and a son of Patty Bartlett Sessions, he had 55 children with eight wives. 54+ Mohammed bin Awad bin Laden This Yemeni emigrant to Saudi Arabia married 22 times and fathered at least 54 children. [154] Osama bin Laden is believed to have been his 17th son. 54 Merrill Jessop Bishop and one-time de facto leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he fathered 54 children with his first six wives. [155] 52 Wongsā Dhiraj Snid Thai royal, son of Rama II of Siam [citation needed] 52 Salem Juma'a Salem Juma'a from United Arab Emirates fathered 52 children through 12 wives. By November 2009 he was approximately 75 years old and 1 ten of his children were dead. The other 42 were 21 sons and 21 daughters aged from 13 to 38 years old. [156] 52 Shire Shamarke Adan Shire Shamarke of the Eidagale fathered a total of 52 children, 23 sons and 29 daughters [157][158] 51 Nangklao (Rama III) King Nangklao, Thailand's third monarch, had 51 children with 37 women. [137] 50 Qin Shi Huang First Emperor of the Qin dynasty and founding emperor of China. Fathered around 50 children with numerous concubines. 50 Luiz Costa Oliveira A Brazilian from Rio Grande do Norte State, he has 50 children from three women (wife, sister-in-law, mother-in-law). [159] 50 Jean-Bédél Bokassa Dictator of the Central African Republic, he lived 1921–1996, and had 17 wives. [citation needed] 49 Goel Ratzon Ratzon is a Jewish cult leader and Messiah claimant, born in 1951; in 2010 he reportedly had '21 wives', with whom he had fathered 49 children (CNN data), or 'more than 30 wives' and 89 children (Time magazine data). These statistics came to light when he was charged with enslavement and rape. [160][161] 48 Willie Mack Detroit Michigan resident [citation needed] [original research?] 48 Joseph F. Smith Sixth president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church), he fathered 48 children with six wives (though his first wife, Levira Smith, never bore children). [162] 48 Devawongse Varoprakar Thai royal, son of Mongkut, fathered 48 sons and daughters. [citation needed] 48 Svasti Sobhana Thai royal, son of Mongkut, fathered 48 sons and daughters. [citation needed] 47 John McAfee In 2018 the software magnate claimed to have 47 'genetic children' [163] 46 Joe Jessop As of February 2010 Jessop was 88. He lived in Short Creek, Utah, alongside a community of at least 6,000 followers of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He fathered 46 children with five wives and had 239 grandchildren. [164] 46 Marriner W. Merrill A Mormon and the great-grandfather of Todd Christensen, he fathered 46 children with six out of his eight wives. 45 Orson Pratt Orson Pratt (Sr.), polymath, and an apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, lived 1811–1881; he fathered 45 children through his ten wives. [165] 30–45 Idi Amin Dictator of Uganda, he lived 1925–2003, and had 17 wives. [citation needed] 44 Jesse N. Smith Jesse Nathaniel Smith, a Mormon pioneer, church leader, colonizer, politician, frontiersman, and member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, fathered 44 children through his five wives. [166] 44 Ong Seok Kim Ong Seok Kim, an educationalist, social worker, philanthropist and entrepreneur. He fathered 44 children through his five wives. [167] 43 Yang Sen A Chinese general and politician who fathered 43 sons and daughters with at least 12 wives. [168] 43 Maha Sura Singhanat Thai royal, younger brother of Rama I, fathered 43 sons and daughters. [citation needed] 43 Philip IV of Spain He fathered 13 legitimate children through his two wives and is said to have at least 30 illegitimate children with different women of all conditions. [169] [self-published source?] 43 Mr Pennant c. 1573 Born William ap Dafydd ap Howel ap Iorwerth he later adopted the family name Pennant, he lived in Anglesey, Wales, and died on 12 March 1581. He married three times, with his first wife he had twenty-two children, second wife ten and then with his third wife four kids with more out of wedlock, at his death his eldest son was 84 and had over 300 descendants. [170][171] 42 Hongwu Emperor First Emperor of the Ming dynasty. Fathered 26 sons and 16 daughters with numerous wives. [citation needed] 42 Phuttha Yotfa Chulalok (Rama I) King Phuttha Yotfa Chulalok, Thailand's first monarch, had 42 children from 28 women. [137] 42 Lorenzo Snow President of the

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he fathered children through his nine wives.[citation needed] 42 Joseph Kony Joseph Kony, the Ugandan leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), has 42 children[172] with 88 spouses. 41 Friedrich von Kahlbutz A minor Prussian nobleman who lived 1651–1702, he fathered 11 children by his wife, and 30 by peasant women in his domain.[173] His mummy is preserved in a church in Neustadt in Brandenburg. 41 Aston "Family Man" Barrett Aston Francis Barrett (born 22 November 1946), often called "Family Man" or "Fams" for short, is a Jamaican musician and Rastafarian. His nickname came about before he had any children of his own. Aston foresaw his role as a band leader and started to call himself "Family Man". He has fathered 41 children since.[174] 41 Muhammad Yusaf Muhammad Yousaf of Sargodha, Pakistan, had at least 41 children from seven wives.[175] 41 Emperor Gaozu of Tang Emperor Gaozu of Tang, Emperor of the Tang dynasty, fathered 41 children with numerous wives.[citation needed] 40 Maha Senanurak Thai royal, son of Rama I, fathered 40 sons and daughters.[citation needed] 40 Emperor Daizong of Tang Emperor of the Tang dynasty, fathered 20 sons and 20 daughters from numerous wives.[citation needed] 40 Hsinbyushin King of Burma, fathered 20 sons and 20 daughters[citation needed] 39+ Emperor Wu of Jin Sima Yan, founder of China's Jin dynasty, had 26 sons and at least 13 daughters. Details are here. 38 Emperor Xianzong of Tang Emperor of the Tang Dynasty. Fathered a total of 20 sons and 18 daughters from numerous wives. 38 Qian Liu Emperor of the Wuyue Kingdom. Fathered at least 38 sons and an uncertain number of daughters. 38 Hanz Retzel Hanz Retzel smuggled Jews out of Germany during WWII In Wiesbaden Germany He had 14 children from his first wife, 20 children from his 4 mistresses and 4 more children from his second wife. 38 Martin Pleyel Martin Pleyel was a schoolmaster from Ruppersthal in Lower Austria in the 18th century. He had 29 children with his first wife, Anna Theresia Pleyel. Their 24th child was composer Ignaz Pleyel (b. 1757).[176] He had another nine children with his second wife, Maria Anna Pleyel.[177] 38 Ramon Revilla A Filipino actor and former senator, he fathered children through 16 different women.[178] Claims to have fathered up to 72 children. 37 Damrong Rajanubhab Thai royal, son of Mongkut, fathered 37 sons and daughters.[citation needed] 37 Robert Gardner Robert Gardner Jr., a Scottish-born Mormon pioneer, had 37 children with 4 wives.[citation needed] 36+ Peter Ellenstein Ellenstein is an American actor, stage director and producer, who has fathered a confirmed 33 children through sperm donation.[179]

Medium.com</ref>

36 Sultan Husain Bayqara Ruler of Timurid Herat and Samarqand. Fathered 18 sons and 18 daughters from 12 wives[citation needed] 36 Emperor Shunzong of Tang Emperor of Tang Dynasty. Fathered 23 sons and 13 daughters from numerous wives.[citation needed] 36 Tharrawaddy Min King of Burma, fathered 18 sons and 18 daughters[citation needed] 36 Mswati III The king of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) has 36 children by 15 wives (as of 2021).[citation needed] 35+ King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia The former King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, born in 1924, he fathered at least 35 children, by thirteen wives.[180] 35 Emperor Taizong of Tang Emperor Taizong of Tang, Second Emperor of Tang Dynasty. Fathered 14 sons and 21 daughters from numerous wives. Considered one of the greatest Chinese Emperors, having conquered an Empire up to 12,400,000 squared km in size.[citation needed] 35 Horace Martin Alexander Alexander was a Mormon, a corporal in the Mormon Battalion, and was friendly with Joseph Smith. He had thirty-five children with four wives, from 1836 until at least 1871.[citation needed] 35 Narathip Praphanphong Thai royal, son of Mongkut, fathered 21 sons and 14 daughters[citation needed] 35 Kanaung Mintha Prince of Burma, fathered 20 sons and 15 daughters[citation needed] 35 Anurak Devesh Thai royal, Rear Palace 34 John Taylor President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he fathered children through his seven wives.[citation needed] 34 Taejo of Goryeo Founding as well as first king of Goryeo, he fathered 34 children (25 sons & 9 daughters) through 32 consorts (6 queens & 26 concubines).[citation needed] 33+ Dillon "Dillon" Asher Asher was the keeper of the first toll-gate in Kentucky, near Pineville. He fathered at least 33 children with four women between 1804 and 1845.[citation needed] 33 Dr. Jan Muhammad Jan Muhammad is from Quetta, Pakistan. He has 14 sons and 19 daughters.[175] 33 Nicholas C. Strohl Farmer who lived in the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania. Strohl fathered 33 children through three wives.[181][182] 33 Wilford Woodruff President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he fathered children through his five (possibly six) wives.[citation needed] 32 Yuan Shikai An important Chinese general and politician, he fathered 32 children (17 sons and 15 daughters) through his wife and nine concubines.[183] 32 Gia Long Emperor of Vietnam, he fathered 32 children.[citation needed] 32 Albert Emund Barlow A follower of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints living in Utah, he was arrested for polygamy at age 52 in 1955.[184] He was said to have fathered 32 children by his three wives. 32 Mr. Catra Brazilian funk carioca singer, fathered 32 children with 3 wives.[185] 32 Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Saudi royal, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia[citation needed] 31+ Cao Cao Cao Cao had 25 sons (including Cao Pi, founder of China's Wei dynasty) and at least six daughters. Details are here. 31 Prince Fushimi Kuniie Japanese royalty, fathered 17 sons and 14 daughters with ten wives.[citation needed] 31 Benjamin Clark A cousin of the explorer William Clark, he fathered 31 children by his two wives; seven of them died in infancy.[186] 30+ Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum The ruler of United Arab Emirates has over 30 children, from 6 wives. 12 of which are from his first and most senior wife Hind bint Maktoum Al Maktoum.[187] 30+ Jonas Savimbi An Angolan politician and guerrilla leader, he lived 1934–2002, and had fathered 29–31 children by 1999; his number of wives is not recorded.[188] 30+ Omar Bongo President of Gabon, he lived 1935–2009; his number of wives is not recorded.[citation needed] 30 Taksin, King of Thonburi Taksin, the King of the Thonburi Kingdom, had 21 sons and nine daughters.[189] 30 Kashemsri Subhayok Thai royal, son of Mongkut, fathered 18 sons and 12 daughters[citation needed] 30 Parley Pratt Early Mormon leader who fathered 30 children with 9 wives. Brother of Orson Pratt (q.v.).[citation needed] 30 Miles Park Romney A Mormon and great-grandfather of Mitt Romney, he fathered 30 children with five wives;[190] he married the last in 1890, just before the 1890 Manifesto. 30 Tom Green A Mormon fundamentalist, he fathered children through ten women.[191] 30 Fally Diallo Senegalese Imam El Hadji Fally Diallo has, up to 2014, fathered 30 children with three wives. He campaigns against family planning in Senegal, claiming that it is his God-given duty to multiply.[192] 29 Sisowath of Cambodia Sisowath of Cambodia, King of Cambodia, fathered 29 sons and daughters.[citation needed] 29 Henry I of England Henry I of England, King of England, had 16 daughters and 11 sons, but only 3 of the children were legitimate[citation needed] 28 Emperor Zhaozong of Tang Emperor Zhaozong of Tang, penultimate Emperor of the Tang dynasty fathered 17 sons and 11 daughters from numerous wives. He was the father of Emperor Ai of Tang.[citation needed] 28 Wichaichan Thai royal, Front Palace[citation needed] 28 Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu The king of the Zulu nation, who reigned from 1968 until his death in 2021, had six wives and 28 children.[citation needed] 28 François Maxim Gamache Gamache was a farmer originally from L'Acadie, Québec, Canada, between his two wives he fathered 15 daughters and 13 sons between 1838 and 1880. With his first wife Osithe Martin he had 10 children. After her death he married Marguerite Duteau and they had 18 children together. There were no multiple births. He died on 19 May 1882 in Cohoes, New York, at the age of 67.[193][194] 27 Qianlong Emperor The Qianlong Emperor, Emperor of the Qing dynasty, fathered 17 sons and 10 daughters from 38 wives.[citation needed] 26 Tairrdelbach Ua Conchobair King of Connacht and High King of Ireland who had 26 children by 6 known wives.[citation needed] 26 Prince Noppawong Thai royal, eldest son of Mongkut, fathered 26 children[citation needed] 25 Edward Hess Hess was an innkeeper from Safe Harbor, Pennsylvania, who also owned a shad fishery. One of the richest men in the area, he had four children with his first wife Elizabeth Ann Shenk, 17 with his second wife Mary Ann Lewis, and four with his third wife Catherine Rankin, who was 37 years his junior.[195] 25 Tobe Liston Arkansas sharecropper; had 15 children from his first marriage and 10 from his second marriage. His 24th child was boxer Sonny Liston.[196][197]

Dionne quintuplets

Dionne quintuplets

Ontario Premier Mitchell Hepburn with the Dionne babies in 1934

BornMay 28, 1934 (age 88)

Callander, Ontario, Canada

DiedYvonne: June 23, 2001 (aged 67)Montreal, QuebecÉmilie: August 6, 1954 (aged 20)Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, QuebecMarie: February 27, 1970 (aged 35)Montreal, QuebecKnown forBeing identical quintupletsParents

- Joseph Oliva Édouard Dionne (father)
- Elzire Dionne (mother)

The Dionne quintuplets (French pronunciation: [dʒɔ̃n]; born May 28, 1934) are the first quintuplets known to have survived their infancy. The identical girls were born just outside Callander, Ontario, near the village of Corbeil. All five survived to adulthood.^[1]

The Dionne girls were premature. After four months with their family, custody was signed over to the Red Cross who paid for their care and oversaw the building of a hospital for the sisters. Less than a year after this agreement was signed, the Ontario government stepped in and passed the Dionne Quintuplets' Guardianship Act, 1935 which made them wards of the Crown until the age of 18.^[2] The Ontario provincial government and those around them began to profit by making them a significant tourist attraction.

The identical quintuplet girls were, in order of birth:

1. Yvonne Édouilda Marie Dionne (died 2001)
2. Annette Lillianne Marie Allard (living)
3. Cécile Marie Émilda Langlois (living)
4. Émilie Marie Jeanne Dionne (died 1954)
5. Marie Reine Alma Houle (died 1970)

Family[edit]

The Dionne family was headed by father Joseph Oliva-Édouard (1904–1979) and mother Elzire Dionne (née Legros; 1909–1986), who married on September 15, 1925. They lived just outside Corbeil, in a farmhouse in unregistered territory.^[clarification needed] The Dionnes were a French-speaking farming family with five older children, Ernest (1926–1995), Rose Marie (1928–1995), Thérèse (1929–2021), Daniel (1932–1995), and Pauline (1933–2018), who was only eleven months older than the quintuplets. A sixth child, Léo (1930-1930), died of pneumonia shortly after birth.

The Dionnes also had three sons after the quintuplets: Oliva Jr. (1936–2017), Victor (1938–2007), and Claude (1946–2009).

Birth[edit]

Elzire was 24 when she gave birth to the quintuplets.^[3] She suspected she was carrying twins, but no one was aware that quintuplets were even possible. The quintuplets were born premature. In 1938, the doctors had a theory that was later proven correct when genetic tests showed that the girls were identical, meaning they were created from a single egg cell. Elzire reported having cramps in her third month and passing a strange object which may have been a sixth fetus.^[4]

Dr. Allan Roy Dafeo is credited with ensuring the successful live birth of the quintuplets. Originally, he diagnosed Elzire with a "fetal abnormality". He delivered the babies with the help of two midwives, Aunt Donalda and Madame Benoît Lebel, who were summoned by Oliva Dionne in the middle of the night.^[4]

Émilie and Marie shared an embryonic sac, Annette and Yvonne shared an embryonic sac, and it is believed that Cécile shared an embryonic sac with the miscarried sixth baby.^[5] All but Émilie were later discovered to be right-handed^[6] and all but Marie had a counterclockwise whorl in their hair.^{[7][8]}

The quintuplets' total weight at birth was 13 pounds, 6 ounces (6.07 kg). The highest weight was 3 pounds 4 ounces and the lowest weight was 2 pounds 4 ounces. ^[3] Their individual weights and measurements were not recorded. The quintuplets were immediately wrapped in cotton sheets and old napkins, and laid in the corner of the bed. Elzire went into shock, but she recovered in two hours.^{[4][8]}

The babies were kept in a wicker basket borrowed from the neighbours, covered with heated blankets. They were brought into the kitchen and set by the open door of the stove to keep warm. One by one, they were taken out of the basket and massaged with olive oil. Every two hours for the first twenty-four, they were fed water sweetened with corn syrup. By the second day they were moved to a slightly larger laundry basket and kept warm with hot-water bottles. They were watched constantly and often had to be roused. They were then fed with "seven-twenty" formula: cow's milk, boiled water, two spoonfuls of corn syrup, and one or two drops of rum for a stimulant.^[9]

News of the unusual birth spread quickly, sparked by Oliva's brother's inquiry to the local newspaper editor about how much he would charge for an announcement of five babies at a single birth. Before long, people from all over North America were offering assistance. Individuals sent supplies and well-meant advice (a famous letter from Appalachia recommends tiny doses of burnt rye whisky to prevent diarrhea);^[10] one hospital sent two incubators. Assistance was also offered by women who donated their breast milk to the quintuplets. The women were compensated for their donations, receiving ten cents per ounce of milk donated. This allowed women to help with household income during the Great Depression. Once the milk was received, it was preserved and sent by train to the quintuplets.^[11] Dr. Alan

Brown of Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children ensured that a train with twenty-eight ounces of breast milk was delivered to the quintuplets each morning.[3]

Removal from family[edit]



Oliva Dionne was approached by fair exhibitors for Chicago's Century of Progress exhibition within days of the girls' birth, seeking to put the quintuplets on display and show them to the world. (At the time it was not unusual for so-called "incubator babies" to be displayed at fairs and other exhibitions.[12]) The parents were persuaded to agree on the advice of the doctor present at the birth, Dr. Dafoe, and the family priest, Father Daniel Routhier.

Although Oliva Dionne revoked the contract only days later citing that his wife, Elzire Dionne, did not sign it and therefore it didn't make the contract valid, the Tour Bureau claimed otherwise. On approximately July 27, 1934, the first guardianship bill was signed. Oliva and Elzire Dionne signed custody of the quintuplets over to the Red Cross for a period of two years to protect them from this contract and in return the Red Cross would cover all medical costs. This included the nurses' wages, supplies, and ensuring that enough breast milk was shipped to the hospital. They also oversaw the building of a hospital built specifically for the Dionne quintuplets. In February 1935 the Dionnes travelled to Chicago as "Parents of the World Famous Babies" and made stage appearances. The Premier of Ontario at the time, Mitchell Hepburn, used the Dionne vaudeville trip as an excuse to extend the guardianship. He claimed that they must save the babies from further exploitation and, in March 1935, pushed the Dionne Quintuplets Act through government that officially made the girls wards of the Crown and extended guardianship to the age of eighteen. Although Oliva Dionne had a seat on the Board of Guardians, he rarely attended meetings as he felt his vote wouldn't matter against the other three guardians: Dr. Dafoe, Joseph Valin and Minister of Welfare David Croll. These three guardians met once a month and had full control over business matters involving the quintuplets. They were involved in caring for the girls, managing money, and creating contracts for business opportunities such as appearances in films and commercials.[13][14] The stated reason for removing the quintuplets from their parents' legal custody was to ensure their survival and protection from promoters.

The government realized there was enormous public interest in the sisters and proceeded to engender a tourist industry around them.[15] The girls were made wards of the provincial Crown, planned until they reached the age of 18.[16]

Dafoe Nursery[edit]

Across the road from their birthplaces, the Dafoe Hospital and Nursery was built for the five girls and their new caregivers. The girls were moved from the farmhouse to this nursery on September 21, 1934, and lived there until they were nine years old.[15] The compound had an outdoor playground designed to be a public observation area. It was surrounded by a covered arcade, which allowed tourists to observe the sisters behind one-way screens. The one-way screens were installed to prevent noise and distraction.[13] The facility was funded by a Red Cross fundraiser. The sisters were brought to the playground two or three times a day in front of the crowd.[15][16] It was a nine-room nursery with a staff house nearby. The staff house held the three nurses and the three police in charge of guarding them, while a housekeeper and two maids lived in the main building with the quintuplets. The buildings were surrounded by a seven-foot (2.13 m) barbed-wire fence.[17]

The Dionne sisters were constantly tested, studied, and examined, with records taken of everything. While living at the compound, they had a somewhat rigid lifestyle. They were not required to participate in chores and were privately tutored in the same building where they lived. Cared for primarily by nurses, they had limited exposure to the world outside the boundaries of the compound except for the daily rounds of tourists, who, from the sisters' point of view, were generally heard but not seen.[15] They also had occasional contact with their parents and siblings across the road. When their parents were allowed in the nursery, they argued with the nurses. Elzire pushed the nurses and objected to the foods that they were fed.[3] Every morning they dressed together in a big bathroom, drank orange juice and cod liver oil, then had their hair curled. They then said a prayer, a gong sounded, and they ate breakfast in the dining room. After 30 minutes, they cleared the table. They then played in the sunroom for 30 minutes, took a 15-minute break, and at nine o'clock had their morning inspection with Dr. Dafoe. Every month, they had a different timetable of activities. They bathed every day before dinner and put on their pyjamas. Dinner was served at precisely six o'clock. They then went into the quiet playroom to say their evening prayers. Each girl had a colour and a symbol to mark whatever belonged to her. Annette's colour was red and her design a maple leaf, Cécile's green and a turkey. Emilie had white and a tulip, Marie blue and a teddy bear, and Yvonne pink and a bluebird.[18]

Up until the quintuplet's birth, Dafoe was a country doctor. He received additional attention when he delivered the quintuplets and was seen as a doctor having much knowledge on child care and health.[19] Up until 1942 when Dafoe retired, he was known as the world's best doctor. He wrote a book, numerous pamphlets, and had a radio broadcast all with the intention of helping mothers with infant care.[11] His broadcasts were sponsored by companies and brands such as Lysol wipes, which were seen as effective at preventing infections for newborn babies.[11][14] Mothers were highly appreciative of Dr. Dafoe's advice as they were actively looking for advice from professionals in the health care or child care fields.[11] Eventually Dafoe was viewed as taking advantage of his new come fame. He spent much money and was removed as one of the three primary caretakers of the quintuplets. This removal involved Oliva Dionne as he took legal action to regain custody over his children.[19] The general public did not know Dafoe profited \$182,466 in 1943, which is equivalent to millions of dollars today.[4]

When visits first started, the visitors watched the quintuplets through a window in the hospital. The hospital quickly realized that this was not good for the quintuplets as they were irritated when they left. Telling visitors not to make loud noises was not enough to prevent them from doing so. They were displayed four times a day. The observatory opened on Canada Day in 1936. Thousands of tourists came to see the sisters and hundreds of cars flooded in. The visitors were told to stay silent and not speak to the girls, continue moving to the side of the road and do not look at the girls and do not touch the girls. The girls were displayed four times a day. The observatory opened on Canada Day in 1936. Thousands of tourists came to see the sisters and hundreds of cars flooded in. The visitors were told to stay silent and not speak to the girls, continue moving to the side of the road and do not look at the girls and do not touch the girls.



Souvenir handkerchief depicting the Dionne quintuplets, circa 1942

Approximately 3,000 people per day visited the observation gallery that surrounded the outdoor playground to view the Dionne sisters. Ample parking was provided and almost 3,000,000 people walked through the gallery between 1936 and 1943. Oliva Dionne ran a souvenir shop and a woollen store opposite the nursery and the area acquired the name "Quintland". The souvenirs, picturing the five sisters, included autographs and framed photographs, spoons, cups, plates, plaques, candy bars, books, postcards, and dolls. Available to the public for free in bins were stones from the area that claimed to have the magical power of fertility – the bins would need to be refilled almost every day. Plus, women without children touched Oliva Dionne as they believed that he could increase their chances of fertility.[3] Midwives Madame LeGros and Madame Lebel worked at five different souvenir shops at different times.[20] The quintuplets brought in more than \$50 million in total tourist revenue to Ontario.[21] Quintland became Ontario's biggest tourist attraction of the era, surpassing the Canadian side of Niagara Falls.[16] It was only rivalled by Radio City Music Hall, Mount Vernon, and Gettysburg in the United States. Hollywood stars who came to Callander to visit the Quints included Clark Gable, James Stewart, Bette Davis, James Cagney, and Mae West. Amelia Earhart also visited Callander just six weeks before her ill-fated flight in 1937.[22] Only five people could be in a room with the quintuplets at one time. These individuals were sprayed with disinfectant.[3]

The sisters, their likenesses and images, along with Dr. Daboe, were used to publicize commercial products including Karo corn syrup, Quaker Oats, Lysol, Palmolive soap, Colgate, Aluminum Goods Manufacturing Co., Beehive Corn Syrup, Canada Starch Company, Carnation Milk, Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Co., Corn Products Refining and Crown Brand Corn Syrup, and Baby Ruth.[3][4] They promoted the sales of condensed milk, toothpaste, disinfectant, candy bars and many other products.[16][3]

Film careers[edit]

The Dionne girls starred in three Hollywood feature films, which were essentially fictionalized versions of their story. They played the "Wyatt quintuplets" in all three films:

- The Country Doctor (1936) – directed by Henry King and starring Jean Hersholt as "Dr. John Luke"
- Reunion (1936)[23] – directed by Norman Taurog and starring Hersholt
- Five of a Kind (1938) – directed by Herbert Leeds and starring Hersholt, as well as Claire Trevor and Cesar Romero as competitive radio journalists

In the first two films, the Dionne quintuplets didn't so much act as simply appear. Their scenes were filmed at Quintland in Callander, and largely consisted of them playing and interacting with each other, as one would expect of normal 2- and 4-year-old children. Both films concentrated more on telling the (fictionalized) story of the heroic doctor who delivered the Wyatts and took care of them, than it did on the Wyatt quintuplets themselves.[24]

The Dionne quintuplets also appeared in numerous newsreels and a short documentary film called Five Times Five in 1939. This film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Short Subject (Two-reel) in 1940.[25] In 1942, they appeared in one of James A. Fitzpatrick's Traveltalks Land of the Quintuplets shortly before they were returned to their parents. In 1998, the three surviving sisters, Cécile, Annette and Yvonne, participated in an hour-long documentary, "Full Circle: The Untold Story of the Dionne Quintuplets", written and directed by Maya Gallus, and broadcast on the CBC documentary series Life & Times.[26]

Trust fund[edit]

The quintuplet's trust fund grew rapidly with each newspaper and newsreel that shared their name. In 1934, a photographer from the Toronto Star, Fred Davis signed a contract stating that the \$10,000 the Newspaper Enterprise Association put into the trust fund disallows anyone else from photographing the quintuplets for a year, including their parents. Each newsreel that Pathé News made meant that a deposit between \$12,000 to \$15,000 was made in the trust fund. The Madame Alexander Doll Company offered the quintuplets five percent of its total sales (\$25,000) as many people bought dolls that resembled the quintuplets, especially during Christmas. By their second birthday, their bank account had \$250,000.[3]

Although the quintuplet's trust fund was secured by the Canadian government, they were not rich nor living comfortably. They were making \$746 monthly. The money in their trust fund decreased through spending on marriage, houses, child support, and divorce. It was discovered that their trust fund contained less money than what was made from advertisements and photographs of the quintuplets. Instead of the government paying for research, food, and travel expenses for photographers and filmmakers, the payment came from the quintuplet's trust fund. When the sisters released their book revealing the harsh memories from their childhood, the government was unmoved. They did not consider the suffering their actions caused and their impact on the quintuplet's childhood. The sisters requested \$10 million from the Canadian government and received no response. With the help of Bertrand (Cecile's son), news released that documents concerning the quintuplets from 1934 to 1937 were burned. After this news released, \$2000 per month was offered to the three living sisters by Premier Mike Harris. The sisters believed this offer was an insult to them and could not pay off the damage that had been done. They just wanted what was stolen from their trust fund. They took their need to media. The sisters turned down offers of 2 and 3 million dollars. They accepted 4 million dollars and an analysis of their trust accounts. Harris visited the sisters and apologized on behalf of the government. The quintuplets had finally put their story in the public's eye and challenged the Ontario government.[3]

Return to family[edit]

The quintuplets in 1947 with their parents and a priest in the background

By 1939 Dr. Dafoe had resigned as guardian and Oliva Dionne was gaining more support to have his family reunited. The family was reunited because their parents made efforts to regain custody over their children. Also, the Catholic Church and French-speaking communities in both Quebec and Ontario pressured the government to give Oliva Dionne custody. These efforts and pressure stemmed from the fact that the Dionnes had never agreed to the removal of the quintuplets from their custody.[19] In 1942, the Dionne family moved into the nursery with the quintuplets while they waited for their new home to be completed. In November 1943, the entire Dionne family moved into their new home. The yellow brick, 20-room mansion was paid for out of the quintuplets' fund. The home had many amenities that were considered luxuries at the time, including telephones, electricity and hot water and was nicknamed "The Big House". The building is now a retirement home.[27]

The nursery was eventually converted into an accredited school house where the sisters finished their secondary education along with ten Roman Catholic girls from the area who were chosen to attend.[28][3] In later years, the old Dafoe Hospital was used by the Recluses of Corbeil as a convent.[29]

When they were reunited, many struggles followed. They were not one big happy family and the quintuplets felt distanced from their siblings. They struggled to communicate as they spoke French and their siblings preferred English. Once Oliva received custody, he wanted the attention. He made police accompany his vehicle as he took the quintuplets out, constantly drawing attention to them and himself.[3]

While the parents claimed that they wished to integrate the quintuplets into the family, the sisters frequently travelled to perform at various functions, and still dressed identically. According to the accounts of the surviving sisters, the parents often treated them at home as a five-part unit, and frequently lectured them about the trouble they had caused the family by existing.[28] They claimed physical abuse at the hands of their mother.[28] They were unaware for many years that the lavish house, the expensive food and the series of cars the family enjoyed were paid for with money they themselves had earned, but they were aware of the fact that their upbringing meant they would never feel truly part of the large Dionne family, and called their time in the Big House, "the saddest home we ever knew".[28]

In particular, Oliva Dionne was resentful and suspicious of outsiders as a result of his having lost custody of the girls. In 1995, the three surviving sisters alleged that their father had sexually abused them during their teenage years.[30] Their father violated them. He bought liniment claiming it would help with Yvonne's chest cold. As a 13-year-old she felt pressured to undress in front of her father. Her father rubbed the liniment on her neck, sternum, shoulders, and ribs. Then, he turned to Emilie and told her he needed to apply the liniment on her too. The quintuplets feared going for car drives with their father and felt the need to dress extra conservatively on these drives because of him. Annette wore turtlenecks to prevent her father from violating her. During car rides the girls were squished up front with their father as the back seats were in for repair. He allegedly French kissed them and put his fingers down their blouses.[3]

Adult years[edit]

The quintuplets left the family home upon turning 18 years old in 1952 and had little contact with their parents afterwards. Three went on to marry and have children: Marie had two daughters, Annette had three sons, and Cécile had five children, including one who died in infancy and twins Bruno and Bertrand.[31] Emilie devoted her brief life to becoming a nun. Yvonne finished nursing school before turning to sculpting, then later becoming a librarian.[32] Emilie died at the age of 20 as a result of a seizure. She had a series of seizures while she was a postulant at a convent and had asked not to be left unattended, but the nun who was supposed to be watching her thought she was asleep and went to Mass. Emilie had another seizure, rolled onto her belly and, unable to raise her face from her pillow, accidentally suffocated.[33] In 1970, Marie was living alone in an apartment and her sisters were worried after not hearing from her in several days. Her doctor went to her home and found her in bed, Marie having been dead for days. A blood clot was found on her brain.[28]

Annette and Cécile both eventually divorced and by the 1990s, the three surviving sisters lived together in the Montreal suburb of Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville.[34]

In 1965, author James Brough wrote a book, in cooperation with the then four surviving sisters, called *We Were Five*. Pierre Berton published a biography called *The Dionne Years: A Thirties Melodrama* in 1977 and narrated a 1978 National Film Board of Canada documentary.[35] John Nihmey and Stuart Foxman published the fictional *Time of Their Lives – The Dionne Tragedy* in 1986. Nihmey's and Foxman's book was the basis for the 1994 TV miniseries *Million Dollar Babies*, produced by CBC and CBS and starring Beau Bridges, Roy Dupuis and Céline Bonnier.[36]



Yvonne, Cécile and Annette Dionne in 1999

In 1997, the three surviving sisters wrote an open letter to the parents of the McCaughey septuplets, warning against allowing too much publicity for the children,[37] [38] after which they reached a \$4 million settlement with the Ontario government as compensation for their exploitation.[3]

As of 2022, there are two surviving sisters, Annette and Cécile. Yvonne died in 2001.[39]

House[edit]

The original family homestead was moved around 1960 to a location on Highway 11B (near the present Clarion Resort), and again in 1985 to North Bay and converted into the non-profit Dionne Quintuplets Museum. The museum was first located at the intersection of Highway 11 and the Trans Canada Highway and features many artifacts from the quint's early days and their growing years. As of October 2016, the museum closed, and the city of North Bay was considering selling the building as surplus, though a petition was circulated by citizens to have it designated and preserved as a historical structure. In 2017, plans surfaced for the city to sell the building, and relocate it to a fairground in the village of Sundridge 75 km south of North Bay.[15] On November 9, 2017, the City of North Bay announced plans to move the house on November 19 to a new site in downtown North Bay (on Oak Street in a vacant area between Marina Point Retirement Residence and Discovery North Bay Museum, a former CPR Station c. 1903) and reopened in spring 2019.[40]

In popular culture[edit]

In the short story "Mandarin Jade", Raymond Chandler wrote in Chapter 3 of "an advertising calendar showing the Dionne quintuplets rolling around on a sky-blue floor". In chapter 11 of his 1939 novel *The Big Sleep*, Chandler described "an advertising calendar showing the Quints rolling around on a sky-blue floor, in pink dresses, with seal-brown hair and sharp black eyes as large as mammoth prunes".[41]



Dionne Quintuplets – School Days, painting by Andrew Loomis, 1938

Canadian mystery writer Louise Penny said the fictional Ouellet quintuplets in her book *How The Light Gets In* "were certainly inspired by the Dionne girls".[42]

In the 1935 film *A Night at the Opera*, Chico makes an oblique reference to the quintuplets, when he says that "duplicates" are "those five kids up in Canada".

In the 1936 film *My Man Godfrey*, Angelica Bullock, played by Alice Brady, references the Dionne quintuplets with the line, "If a woman in Canada can have five children, why can't Godfrey?"

In the 1937 British comedy film *Oh, Mr Porter!*, Will Hay's character "Porter" puns on "Murphy" telling him his wife's had quinsky (a complication of tonsillitis), replying "What, like that woman in Canada?"[43]

In the 1939 film *The Women*, Joan Crawford's character Crystal Allen schemes to convince her boyfriend of her domestic skills. Her friend jokingly asks her, "Why don't you borrow the quintuplets for the evening?"[44]

In the 1941 film *Dumbo*, a musical number, titled "Look Out for Mr. Stork", contains lyrics mentioning "those quintuplets and the woman in the shoe".

In the 1944 film *The Miracle of Morgan's Creek*, an American girl has six boys. The news makes headlines around the world. A newspaper headline is shown: "Canada Demands Recount".

In the 1945 film *Duffy's Tavern*, Archie played by Ed Gardner, asks another character (Ms. Duffy), "what else did you see while you were up there [in Canada], did you see the, uh, quintuplets?!"

In the 1946 Looney Tunes cartoon *Baby Bottleneck*, Daffy Duck is shown taking phone calls from a handful of celebrity fathers including Eddie Cantor, Bing Crosby and Oliva Dionne (who is quickly dismissed by Daffy with a curt "Mr. Dionne, puh-lease!").

Stephen Sondheim referenced the quintuplets in his song "I'm Still Here" from the musical *Follies* with the line "I got through Abie's Irish Rose, five Dionne babies, Major Bowes ...".[45]

The fourth episode of the Amazon television series *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* is called "The Disappointment of the Dionne Quintuplets".

Three of the Dionne quintuplets were referenced by Curly Howard in a Three Stooges short entitled "False Alarms", aired August 15, 1936.

In *Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise* (1939), towards the end of the film, Moe Howard tells Curly to wish for quintuplets and Curly responds that honeymooning in Canada with their new found loves is how to make the wish come true, a reference to the Dionne quintuplets

The publicity around the birth and display of the quintuplets inspired the 1999 episode of *The Simpsons*, "Eight Misbehavin".[46]

In 2018, the birth of the quintuplets was named a National Historic Event.[47]

E.L. Doctorow references the quintuplets in his novel *World's Fair* (1985) in a chapter 2 passage "I don't trust that doctor", she said of the physician attending the Dionne quintuplets. "He likes the limelight too much."

Shelley Wood's novel about the sisters, *The Quintland Sisters*, was published on March 5, 2019. It is a fictionalized account of the sisters' story from the point of view of one of the midwives' assistants.[48]

Disney: *Pluto's Quin-Puplets* (1937) – the first animated short officially starring Pluto – was cleverly created in the wake of the 1930s craze kicked up by the celebrated Dionne quintuplets: Pluto and Fifi are seen as "Mr. And Mrs. Pluto", the parents of five mischievous mini-Plutos.[49]

References[edit]

1. ^ Scott, Marian (October 23, 2016). "Dionne Quintuplets: Sister penniless, 18 years after settlement". *Montreal Gazette*. Retrieved October 3, 2019.
2. ^ Lillian Barker (1951). *The Dionne Legend: Quintuplets in Captivity*. Doubleday.
3. ^ a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o Miller, Sarah (2019). *The Miracle and Tragedy of the Dionne Quintuplets*. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books. ISBN 978-1-5247-1382-9.
4. ^ a b c d e Berton, Pierre (1978). *The Dionne Years: A Thirties Melodrama*. W.W. Norton. ISBN 0393332268. *The Dionne Years: A Thirties Melodrama*.
5. ^ Kay Cassill (1982). *Twins: Nature's Amazing Mystery*. Atheneum. ISBN 978-0-689-11239-3.
6. ^ William E. Blatz, University of Toronto. *Institute of Child Study (1937). Collected studies on the Dionne quintuplets*. University of Toronto press. ISBN 9780405064548.
7. ^ Julian Blackburn (December 19, 2013). *The Framework of Human Behaviour*. Taylor & Francis. ISBN 978-1-136-27516-6.
8. ^ a b DaFoe, Allan Roy (April 1942). "What The Quints Have Taught Me". *The Rotarian*. Rotary International: 32–. ISSN 0035-838X.
9. ^ Denison, Merrill. "Infant Industry: The Quintuplets". *Harper's Magazine*. (1938). Condensed in *Reader's Digest* 33(200), December 1938, pp. 104–07.
10. ^ Reprinted in Clay, Marie M. (1991). *Quadruplets and Higher Multiple Births*. Cambridge University Press. p. 6. ISBN 0521412234.
11. ^ a b c d O'Rourke, Kathryn; McLean, Loma; Cook, Sharon Anne (2001). *Framing our past: Canadian women's history in the twentieth century*. McGill-Queen's University Press. pp. 134–138.
12. ^ "A Patron of the Preemies" 1939 *The New Yorker* article about "incubator doctor" Martin A. Couney.
13. ^ a b Dafoe, Allan Roy; Dafoe, William A. (1937). "The Physical Welfare of the Dionne Quintuplets". *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. 37 (5): 415–423. ISSN 0008-4409. PMC 538293. PMID 20320771.
14. ^ a b Brégent-Heald, Dominique (January 2, 2019). "Five Little Stars: The Dionne Quintuplets, Motherhood, Film and Tourism during the Great Depression". *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*. 39 (1): 54–74. doi:10.1080/01439685.2018.1472832. ISSN 0143-9685. S2CID 194820869.
15. ^ a b c d e Austen, Ian (April 2, 2017). "2 Survivors of Canada's First Quintuplet Clan Reluctantly Re-emerge". *The New York Times*. Retrieved April 3, 2017.
16. ^ a b c d Brockell, Gillian. "The Dionne quintuplets: The exploitation of five girls raised in a 'baby zoo'". *Washington Post*. Retrieved November 4, 2019.
17. ^ "Quintland – Quintland". Retrieved September 15, 2020.
18. ^ "They were five: The Dionne Quintuplets revisited" Cynthia Wright, Winter 1994.
19. ^ a b c Nicholas, Jane (September 10, 2018). "6. The Spectacularization of Small and Cute: Midget Shows and the Dionne Quintuplets". *Canadian Carnival Freaks and the Extraordinary Body, 1900-1970s*. University of Toronto Press. pp. 174–200. doi:10.3138/9781487515744-009. ISBN 978-1-4875-1574-4. S2CID 239138837.
20. ^ "The Dionne quintuplets: A Depression-era freak show". *CNN*. November 19, 1997. Retrieved June 21, 2007.
21. ^ Patty English, MS (May 24, 2016). "Human Exploitation - How The Dionne Quintuplets Were Abused". *Owlcation.com*.
22. ^ "Six weeks before she disappeared in 1937, Amelia Earhart was in northern Ontario". *TimminsToday.com*. Retrieved May 29, 2020.
23. ^ "Reunion (1936)". Retrieved June 7, 2014.
24. ^ "Reunion (1936) - Notes - TCM.com". *Turner Classic Movies*. Retrieved September 15, 2020.
25. ^ "The 12th Academy Awards | 1940". *Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences*. Retrieved December 4, 2019.
26. ^ "Full Circle: The Untold Story of the Dionne Quintuplets". *IMDb*. Retrieved September 15, 2020.
27. ^ Miller, Natalie (November 1, 2003). "Nipissing Manor former home to Dionne quintuplets". *Ontario Long Term Care Association*. Retrieved March 10, 2013.
28. ^ a b c d e "Dark Side of the Famous Five". *The Independent*. November 5, 1995. Retrieved September 15, 2020.
29. ^ "Monastery of the Recluse Missionaries of Jesus and Mary, Corbeil, Ontario, Canada, 40-60s " | For sale on Delcampe". *Delcampe*. Retrieved September 15, 2020.
30. ^ Farnsworth, Clyde H. (September 26, 1995). "Three Dionne Quintuplets Say Father Sexually Abused Them". *The New York Times*. Retrieved March 10, 2013.
31. ^ *Family Secrets* by Cécile, Yvonne, and Annette Dionne.
32. ^ "The Confusion Over Cloning by Richard C.Lewontin
33. ^ *We Were Five and Family Secrets* by Cécile, Yvonne, and Annette Dionne.
34. ^ Came, Barry (November 21, 1994). "A Family Tragedy". *Maclean's*. Retrieved September 15, 2020.
35. ^ "The Dionne Quintuplets". *IMDb*. Retrieved September 15, 2020.
36. ^ "Million Dollar Babies". *IMDb*. Retrieved September 15, 2020.
37. ^ Dionne, Annette; Dionne, Cecile; Dionne, Yvonne (December 1, 1997). "Advice from the Dionne Quintuplets". *Time*. Archived from the original on April 8, 2008. Retrieved March 10, 2013.
38. ^ *Open Letter from the Dionne Quintuplets 1997*.
39. ^ Gaffney, Dennis (May 27, 2014). Ben Cosgrove (ed.). "The Dionne Quintuplets: Little Girls Lost in the Harsh Glare of Fame". *Time*. Archived from the original on March 2, 2015. Retrieved April 20, 2015.
40. ^ "Dionne Quints home set to move this month". *CBC News*. November 9, 2017.
41. ^ "Raymond Chandler. The Big Sleep".
42. ^ "How The Light Gets In", Louise Penny, 2013.
43. ^ https://www.springfieldspringfield.co.uk/movie_script.php?movie=oh-mr-porter Oh, Mr. Porter! (1937) Movie Script
44. ^ "The Women (1939)". *IMDb*. Retrieved July 28, 2018.
45. ^ Stephen Sondheim, *Finishing the Hat: Collected Lyrics (1954–1981) with Attendant Comments, Principles, Heresies, Grudges, Whines and Anecdotes* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010).
46. ^ Bates, James W.; Gimple, Scott M.; McCann, Jesse L.; Richmond, Ray; Seghers, Christine, eds. (2010). *Simpsons World The Ultimate Episode Guide: Seasons 1–20 (1st ed.)*. Harper Collins Publishers. pp. 534–535. ISBN 978-0-00-738815-8.
47. ^ Government of Canada Announces 12 New National Historic Designations, Parks Canada news release, March 27, 2018
48. ^ "The Quintland Sisters (2019)". *Harper Collins*. Retrieved November 11, 2019.
49. ^ "10 Things You Didn't Know About Walt Disney's Pluto". August 27, 2015.

Bibliography[edit]

- Soucy, Jean Yves; Dionne, Annette; Dionne, Cécile; Dionne, Yvonne (1997). *Family Secrets: The Dionne Quintuplets' Autobiography*. Berkley Books. ISBN 0-425-15690-7. Translated by Kathe Roth. OCLC 824190704

First edition: Jean-Yves Soucy; avec Annette, Cécile et Yvonne Dionne. *Les secrets de famille des soeurs Dionne* (in French). Paris: Presses de la Cité. 1996. ISBN 2258044162. OCLC 409475805.

- James Brough; Marie Dionne; Annette Dionne; Cecile Dionne; Yvonne Dionne. "We were five": the Dionne quintuplets' story from birth through girlhood to womanhood. New York: Simon and Schuster. 1965. OCLC 300008108.

External links[edit]

- Dionne Quints digitized historical information authorized by the sisters, funded by an Ontario grant
- Life and Times: Full Circle: The Untold Story of the Dionne Quintuplets at CBC.ca
- The Dionne Quints Museum at North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce
- The Dionne Quintuplets at Well Known People Who Happen to be Canadian
- Dionne Quints Ahnentafel– 14 preceding generations from year 1515
- Dionne Quintuplets at The Canadian Encyclopedia
- The Dionne Quintuplets at Neonatology on the Web (neonatology.org)
- A film clip "4 sur 4"

- Mining
- Shopping Essentials
 - Home Living
 - Style & Beauty
 - Kitchen & Dining
 - Personal Care
 - Entertainment & Hobbies
 - Gift Guide
 - Travel Guide
- Sports Betting
- Obituaries
 - Place a Notice
- Classifieds
 - Place a Classifieds ad
 - Working
- Advertise With Us

- Profile
- Settings
- Manage My Subscriptions
- Manage My Newsletters
- Customer Service
- FAQ
-

- News
- Energy
- Finance
- Investor
- Economy
- Work
- FP Comment
- Newsletters
- Executive Women
- Business Essentials
- MoneyWise Canada
- The Logic

This advertisement has not loaded yet, but your article continues below.

1. Personal Finance
2. Family Finance

Mom taught me how: Six conversations to have with your daughters to ensure their financial wellness

Financial literacy is key to a successful financial future

Published Nov 20, 2022 • Last updated Nov 20, 2022 • 5 minute read

Join the conversation



Help your daughter grow up to be strong and independent by teaching financial literacy. Photo by Getty Images/iStockphoto

By Louise Stevenson

This advertisement has not loaded yet, but your article continues below.

We all want our daughters to grow up to be strong and independent, but children often model the behaviour of their parents.



Financial Post Top Stories

Sign up to receive the daily top stories from the Financial Post, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.

By clicking on the sign up button you consent to receive the above newsletter from Postmedia Network Inc. You may unsubscribe any time by clicking on the unsubscribe link at the bottom of our emails or any newsletter. Postmedia Network Inc. | 365 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 3L4 | 416-383-2300

“The results of the triennial worldwide survey of 15-year-old students found that teens who talked about finances with their parents, even just once a week, scored 33 points higher in financial literacy than those who did not,” according to the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada.

“Higher levels of financial literacy in students are associated with confidence in keeping track of their account balance and planning their spending with consideration of their current financial situation. Both are key factors in building a financially secure future.”

Do you remember watching your mom balance her chequebook? I do. The advantage of technology is that we now have access to great apps and data, but the downside of our tap culture is that it's so easy to tap away without paying real attention to our purchases.

This advertisement has not loaded yet, but your article continues below.

The next time you find yourself with your daughter safely tucked into the seat beside you in the car (a.k.a. trapped with nowhere to go), here are six topics you may want to discuss.

To make budget management easier, set up two accounts

Once you've established your monthly budget, transfer the monthly total to the “spending” (likely a traditional chequing account), keeping any excess in the second (likely a savings account). This helps make a decision to review your monthly budget a more mindful one, and, in the process, helps establish better spending habits

and ideally to live within your budget.

Don't ignore the power of compounding

We've all heard the advice to "pay yourself first." There's future financial wellness in that statement. If at age 20, your daughter started saving and investing \$361.04 per month, or roughly \$12 per day, based on a five-per-cent rate of return, she could be a millionaire by 65.

~~The difference between starting at age 20 versus age 30 is \$1,000,000 versus \$100,000.~~

If she balks at that amount, I am not going to be patronizing and ask her to forgo her latte (thank you, Sallie Krawcheck, co-founder of robo-advisor Ellevest Inc., for clearing that up), but I am going to suggest that investing in herself and her future is absolutely worth it and the earlier she starts, the better. That monthly amount increases to \$698.41 if she waits until she is 30.

Encourage your daughter to maintain some financial independence

~~It's hard to see your daughter selecting a boyfriend, but assisting her to get financial independence has its merits.~~

Establishing and maintaining a healthy credit rating could become very important if she finds herself on her own in the future. Trying to borrow money at 50, post-
^b,rtm^c. heBy^e baAsa^s s s s sint^s she b sh

There is a lot of misinformation regarding investments. The true benefit comes from having a comprehensive financial plan with regular check-ins towards financial goals that help people make smarter financial decisions along the way.

Encourage her to develop a list of questions, interview and seek the advice of an investment professional

This advertisement has not loaded yet, but your article continues below.

Aside from the questions one would ask regarding educational credentials, experience and investment approach, research has shown that working with a good adviser can have a significant impact on future wealth.

I would encourage your daughter to pick an adviser with whom she feels comfortable asking questions and one who wants to partner with your daughter, thus instilling confidence to own and lead her own journey to wealth.

Louise Stevenson is an investment adviser at RBC Wealth Management.

If you liked this story, sign up for more in the FP Investor newsletter.
