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Quotes: Ancestry

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Quotes: Ancestry

I tell students at the Babson institute... that there are only three really important days in their lives – namely (1) the day when they select their ancestors; (2) the day when they select their wives or husbands; and (3) the day when they select their life vocations. Of all these days, the first is the most important, even though they have the least to do with it.

- Roger Ward Babson
Chapter 1, Does Ancestry Count

Babson, Roger W. *Actions and Reactions: An Autobiography of Roger W. Babson*. New York: Harper & Brothers Publisher, 1950. (p. 1)

With the exception of Isabel Babson and the historian, John J. Babson, the Babsons were never leaders in their communities. They were, however, democratic and independent. Whenever I did anything unorthodox, my parents would say, “Surely Roger is a Babson.” The family believed that our “good” qualities came from the Rogers, Gorham, or Low families on my father’s side; and from the Putnam, Stearns, and Wise families on my mother’s side.

- Chapter 1, My Direct Male Line

Babson, Roger W. *Actions and Reactions: An Autobiography of Roger W. Babson*. New York: Harper & Brothers Publisher, 1950. (p. 5)

The Israel Putnam fighting strain has come down through all generations. I really think that next to a square meal we all enjoy a good fight. There is also a religious strain in the family. From the Reverend John Wise down, every generation has had members who were distinctly interested in the churches and community welfare... There is also an educational strain, which has come down from John Rogers... Practically, I can see myself as a combination of these fighting, religious, and educational strains, all of which have dominated certain branches of my ancestry.

Mixed with the above strains has been a distinctly commercial strain. I refer to those ancestors who were sea captains, engaged in trade between Boston and China, Africa, and the isles of the sea.

- Chapter 1, Ancestral Strains

Babson, Roger W. *Actions and Reactions: An Autobiography of Roger W. Babson*. New York: Harper & Brothers Publisher, 1950. (p. 5-6)

[I] wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to every one of them, the good and the bad; to the aristocratic Gorhams and the democratic Babsons; to the religious Wises and the fighting Putnams. It takes all kinds to make a world!

- Chapter 1, Old-Time Merchants

Babson, Roger W. *Actions and Reactions: An Autobiography of Roger W. Babson*. New York: Harper & Brothers Publisher, 1950. (p. 7)

...it has been a hobby of mine to collect personal property of my ancestors. On the third floor of my house [in Wellesley] I had a room furnished with gadgets, from flintlocks to foot-stoves used by my ancestors, during the past two hundred years... Every family should have such a room which becomes more and more interesting with every generation.

- Chapter 27, Genealogy

Babson, Roger W. *Actions and Reactions: An Autobiography of Roger W. Babson*. New York: Harper & Brothers Publisher, 1950. (p. 251-252)

We all inherit from one or more strains of ancestry... *Is there any biological reason why girls should inherit from the domestic strain and boys from an agricultural or mechanical or business strain?* The answer definitely is, "No." Biologically, the girls are just as likely to come from the mechanical or business strain as from the domestic or any other strain... Statistics show that one of the principal causes of both ruined businesses and ruined homes is the custom of fathers to leave their business to sons to operate, irrespective of whether these sons inherit business ability; or to expect their daughters to be housewives, irrespective of whether these daughters inherit domesticity.

- Chapter 23, An Important Question

Babson, Roger W. *Actions and Reactions: An Autobiography of Roger W. Babson*. New York: Harper & Brothers Publisher, 1950. (p. 216)

Not enough attention is given to genealogy today. People are more interested in studies of stocks, bonds real estate, and other more tangible assets. The time may come, nevertheless, when these forms of property, over which we are now fighting, may be owned publicly instead of privately. Then our only assets may be ourselves and our children. If this time comes, a great interest will develop in genealogy, biology, genetics, and similar studies. When children become the only assets which a person can have, then serious attention will be given to marriage, conception, and the training of boys and girls.

- Chapter 27, Genealogy

Babson, Roger W. *Actions and Reactions: An Autobiography of Roger W. Babson*. New York: Harper & Brothers Publisher, 1950. (p. 251)

I truly enjoy my grandchildren – in addition to my desire to instill into them some fundamental principles of life. Playing with little children was meant to be one of man's natural pleasures. We all should give more time to our children and grandchildren. Both will remember us far more for the time we give them than for the money we leave them. *Besides, how they are to use the money which we later leave them will depend primarily upon the time we now give them.*

- Chapter 27, Children and
Grandchildren

Babson, Roger W. *Actions and Reactions: An Autobiography of Roger W. Babson*. New York: Harper & Brothers Publisher, 1950. (p. 254)