

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? — THE AFTERMATH

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As the world knows at this point, after four episodes of *Who Do You Think you Are?* have been aired...Genealogical Research is the hot topic of the day!

Libraries are packed, professional genealogists besieged with requests for their services, beginner's classes being scheduled. Family search is the topic of conversation everywhere one goes.

When it began, we at GENCOM started an opinion poll and asked members to respond with their impressions of each program. We posted them on our website and relayed the weekly messages describing upcoming programs from Susan Russo Adams of Ancestry to the WDYTYA responders.

The answers were much more varied than I would have imagined! From a few lines saying they liked it and learned of new resources-- to pages of careful analysis of the methodology used. Many felt the shows made the process look too easy; it appeared that librarians and archivists would do the research for us. More thought that the travel shown is far beyond most people's means... One man said "It would take all the fun out of it to hire someone to do my research. "It would deprive us of that thrill of victory when we finally find the object of our search and surmount the brick wall! We have all heard the shriek of excitement in a quiet library when someone sees the name of his ancestor in some old book or found a marriage record which had eluded him for 30 years or so!

There were so many different reactions it made most interesting reading.....and I was impressed with the intelligent responses expressed by our members.

After a month of total immersion in the subject—Let me give you my analysis of the situation!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE has made GENEALOGY fashionable!

We have all heard derisive remarks made about family historians..."*He hunts dead people*" or reference to "*The funny old Aunt who does Genealogy*" as though it is a family embarrassment to have a member who is involved with something so peculiar!

Well, now thanks to Ancestry's remarkable production---we can all come out of the closet! And revel in the new respect we are enjoying, (As we answer the new devotees questions!)

