

American Memory

1 generation back: Parents — commonly remembered clearly.

2 generations back: Grandparents — commonly remembered, especially if they lived into the person's childhood.

3 generations back: Great-grandparents — some people remember them, but fewer.

4 generations back: Great-great-grandparents — rare to have personal memories.

5+ generations back: Almost never personally remembered; knowledge generally comes from records, stories, photographs, or historical sources.

Parent: born ~1950–2000 → easily remembered

Grandparent: born ~1920–1950 → often remembered

Great-grandparent: born ~1890–1930 → sometimes remembered

Great-great-grandparent: born ~1860–1910 → rarely remembered

3× great-grandparent: born ~1830–1880 → extraordinarily unlikely to be personally remembered

4×+ great-grandparent: generally **before ~1850** → essentially no living American would have a direct personal memory

***For Cowdrey:** My childhood memories began around **1986~1988** & I do remember my great grandparents very well who spoke French ♥ They were all wonderful people.*

Why is this understanding important?

White Americans have been put through more than most realize regarding circumstances that occurred far before they were born, before their parents were born, before their parents were born and before their parents were born. Most living today have no memory of any date prior to 1863. Yet the racial conflicts continued. Unfortunately, the injustice today brought forward to White people of the United States has been grave. The stories of White people being targeted are heartbreaking. Most were innocent and were simply targeted because of their color.

Modern “social justice” movements could care less about White humanity. In fact, they are actively trying to harm White people. These movements are not small. In fact, they have ultimately caused some of the most severe injustices the United States has ever seen.

Essentially, what they initially began as, for example, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s movement, and “I Have a Dream” speech, became something very different. Some may refer to this experience as a nightmare. The social justice movement itself became a social injustice.

Unfortunately, it is an ongoing experience, and worse, it is often perpetuated by individuals who are not even from here, whose families never experienced slavery. Many modern individuals never experienced slavery, and they may or may not have ancestors who experienced slavery. Roughly 40% have expressed that their families experienced some form of slavery, for example, indentured servitude, and for some, other worse forms.

Within the Acadian community, our families are predominantly here in the United States because of forced diaspora, genocide, indentured servitude and migration, yet this history is rarely spoken of.

The truth is, however, that many people throughout history endured some form of hardship. Today, unfortunately, there are more slaves than there were before emancipation. Yet more than one race endured slavery then, and more than one race perpetuated it. The same is true today.

Instead of going back in time and harming the people who are alive today for something that happened then, what if we worked on focusing more on our reality today?

This isn't about politics. Really, what this is about and should be about, is freeing people from violence, abuse, and modern forms of slavery. It is about freeing one another and supporting one another. It is about helping each other up from the ground through a really heartbreaking time in our history.

Together, we can work through this. *Let's talk about today.*