Product Requirement Document: AI-Powered Legacy Journaling & Memory Preservation Platform MVP

1. Product Vision

The vision for this AI-powered journaling and memory preservation platform is to empower individuals to effortlessly capture, reflect upon, and preserve their unique life stories, voices, and emotional moments. By leveraging advanced AI and voice technology, the platform aims to create deeply personal and enduring legacies that can be cherished across generations.

The initial focus is on legacy journaling and voice-based storytelling, with a clear roadmap for expansion into adjacent emotional life-stage markets such as weddings, corporate, parenting, and memorials. The platform will prioritize user trust, data privacy, and ethical AI design to ensure a meaningful and secure experience.

2. Target Audience & User Personas

The initial MVP will target three-four primary user personas, each with distinct motivations and needs:

- **The Reflective Journaler:**
  - **Demographics:** Primarily Millennials and Gen X (aged 28-55).
  - **Motivations:** Interested in personal growth, mental wellness, emotional regulation, and self-understanding. They seek tools to enhance their journaling practice and gain deeper insights into their thoughts and feelings. They are generally tech-savvy and open to AI tools that can provide personalized reflection.
  - **Needs:** Easy, intuitive journaling; personalized prompts; mood tracking; secure, private space for self-expression.
- **The Legacy Creator:**
  - **Demographics:** Primarily Boomers and older Gen X (aged 50+).
  - **Motivations:** Driven by the desire to leave a lasting legacy of their life experiences, values, and wisdom for future generations. They may prefer oral storytelling over writing.[1]
  - **Needs:** Simple, guided story capture (especially voice-based); easy compilation of narratives; ability to share with family; a tangible output (e.g., a digital document or simple audio file).
- **The Family Story-Keeper:**
  - **Demographics:** Primarily Gen X caregiver or family historian (aged 40-60).
  - **Motivations:** Concerned with capturing and preserving the stories of aging parents or other relatives before those memories are lost.[2] Interested in collaborative tools for broader family history.[3]
  - **Needs:** Tools for multiple contributors; easy organization of shared memories; secure long-term storage; ability to compile and share family narratives.
- **The Ancestry Enthusiast:**
  - **Demographics**: Adults aged 35+, interested in genealogy
  - **Motivations**: Integrate journaling with family lineage and visualize how memories align with family history
  - **Needs**: GEDCOM upload, family tree visualization, ability to link stories to relatives

3. User Stories (MVP)

The following user stories represent the core functionalities for the Minimum Viable Product:

Voice-First Journaling & Story Capture:

- As a **Reflective Journaler**, I want to easily record my thoughts and feelings using my voice, so I can express myself naturally and quickly.
- As a **Legacy Creator**, I want to record my life stories by speaking into the app, so I don't have to worry about typing.
- As a **Family Story-Keeper**, I want to be able to record stories from my relatives using the app, so I can capture their authentic voices.
- As a **User**, I want my voice recordings to be accurately converted into text, so I can easily read, edit, and review my entries

AI-Powered Smart Prompts:

- As a **Reflective Journaler**, I want AI to provide me with personalized questions and prompts based on my previous entries, so I can reflect more deeply and gain new insights
- As a **Legacy Creator**, I want AI to suggest questions that help me recall specific life events or themes, so I can tell a more comprehensive story.

Basic Multimedia Integration:

- As a **User**, I want to attach photos to my voice entries or journal segments, so I can add visual context to my memories.
- As an **Ancestry Enthusiast**, I would like to be able to add content and context (PDFs/etc) to my family tree or my stories I know about my ancestors, these may not be on my timeline.

Secure, Private-by-Default Storage:

- As a **User**, I want all my journal entries and recordings to be encrypted and private, so I feel secure sharing my personal thoughts.
- As a **User**, I want clear and easy-to-understand privacy controls, so I know exactly who can access my data.
- As a **User,** I want to be able to add a family password which will allow me to invite other users to view and contribute to my collections.

Simple Organization & Search:

- As a **User**, I want my entries to be automatically tagged with keywords, holidays, and themes, so I can easily find specific memories later.
- As a **User**, I want to view my entries chronologically, so I can see my progress over time.
- As a **User,** I want AI to be able to recognize and try and automatically organize my entries based on photo age or other context.
- As a **User,** I want AI to be able to automatically recognize and categorize faces on photos (think google photos recognition)
- As a **User**, I want to search my journal entries using keywords, so I can quickly locate specific information.

Legacy Output (Simple Version):

- As a **Legacy Creator**, I want to select specific stories or entries and export them as a readable document (e.g., PDF), so I can share them with my family.
- As a **Family Story-Keeper**, I want to compile selected audio recordings into a shareable audio file or playlist, so my family can listen to the original voices.
- As a **User**, I want to be able to prompt AI to automatically draft memoir chapters from journal entries. I should be able to edit this. (NTH)

Collaborative Storytelling (NTH):

- As a **Family Story-Keeper**, I want to invite family members to contribute their own memories and voice recordings to shared story collections, so we can preserve a more complete family history.
- As a **User**, I want to see which entries were added by each contributor, so I can track who shared which memory.

Ancestry & Family Tree Visualization (NTH):

- As a **User**, I want to upload a family tree file (e.g., GEDCOM) so I can organize stories by relatives.
- As a **User**, I want to view a visual family tree that connects stories to individuals.
- As a **User**, I want AI to prompt stories based on relatives in the tree.

4. MVP Features

Voice-First Journaling & Story Capture

- High-quality in-app audio recording functionality
- Accurate and fast voice-to-text transcription (leveraging models like OpenAI's Whisper)
- Ability to tag voice entries with emotions, people, places, and themes

AI-Powered Smart Prompts

- Contextual and emotionally intelligent prompts based on user input and previous entries
- Prompts adaptable to user-selected themes (e.g., "childhood memories," "gratitude")

Basic Multimedia Integration

- Simple functionality to attach photos to voice entries or journal segments
- Allow upload of contextual materials (e.g., PDFs) related to ancestors or off-timeline content

Secure, Private-by-Default Storage

- End-to-end encryption for all journal entries, audio recordings, and uploaded photos
- Clear, easy-to-understand privacy controls, giving users full ownership and control over their data
- Ability to set family passwords for shared collection access

Simple Organization & Search

- Automatic tagging based on AI analysis of transcriptions (identifying keywords, themes, recurring people/places)
- Chronological view of entries
- AI-assisted organization based on metadata (e.g., photo age or event context)
- Face recognition and categorization for photos (Google Photos-style)
- Basic keyword and semantic search functionality across transcriptions and user-added tags

Legacy Output (Simple Version)

- Ability to select journal entries and export them as formatted documents (e.g., PDF)
- Option to compile selected audio recordings into a simple, shareable audio file or playlist
- AI-assisted draft memoir chapters based on journal entries (user-editable)

Collaborative Storytelling (NTH)

- Ability to create a shared "Memory Collection" and invite contributors via email or link
- Display contributor metadata on each entry
- Basic access permissions (view, comment, contribute)
- Activity feed showing new contributions
- Shared export of stories as joint audio playlists, PDFs, or incorporated into AI-generated narratives

Ancestry & Family Tree Visualization (NTH)

- GEDCOM or CSV file upload for family tree data
- Basic tree visualization (4-5 generations)
- Link journal entries to specific relatives
- Contextual prompt generation based on family member names and relationships
- Attach documents or photos directly to individuals on the tree

5. Future Features (Post-MVP)

These features will be considered for future iterations based on user feedback and technological readiness:

- AI Voice Cloning for narrating stories in the user's own voice or creating an interactive voice persona.
- Interactive AI Persona/Companion for conversational Q&A based on the user's journal content for enhancement.
- Enhanced collaborative Journaling/Storytelling features for families or groups.
- Full-fledged, dedicated modules for specific life events (Weddings, Parenting, Memorials, Corporate).
- Print-on-demand books, physical gift boxes for audio messages, or other tangible keepsake options.
- Advanced AI-driven analytics and visualizations of emotional patterns, themes over time, etc.
- Integration with external google photos or other data sources for richer context.

6. Technical Requirements & Tech Stack

- **Platform Format:** Hybrid approach with a mobile-first app (iOS & Android) for primary voice

capture and a companion web app which allows for recording, editing, organization, and managing legacy outputs.
- **Voice-to-Text (ASR):** OpenAI's Whisper.
- **Text Summarization & Prompt Generation:** Large Language Models (LLMs) such as OpenAI's GPT-3.5 or GPT-4, or comparable models from Anthropic or Cohere.
- **Search & Organization:** Vector databases for semantic search across journal entries and transcribed audio.
- **Cloud Infrastructure:** A scalable cloud platform like AWS, Google Cloud Platform (GCP), or Microsoft Azure will be necessary for storage, compute power for AI models, and application hosting.
- **Security:** End-to-end encryption for all data, secure data storage, and robust access controls.
- **GEDCOM parser for ancestry uploads**
- **Tree visualization library (e.g., D3.js, React-Family-Tree)**

7. Success Metrics (MVP)

- **User Engagement:**
  - Number of active users (DAU/MAU).
  - Average daily/weekly voice entries per user.
  - Average duration of voice recordings.
  - Retention rate (e.g., 7-day, 30-day retention).
  - Feature adoption rate (e.g., percentage of users utilizing smart prompts, photo attachments).
- **Content Generation:**
  - Total number of voice entries recorded.
  - Total volume of transcribed text.
  - Number of legacy exports generated.

8. Ethical Considerations

- **Data Privacy & Security:** Implement robust encryption and clear data handling policies. Users must have full control over their data, including the ability to view, edit, and delete their memories.
- **Authenticity & Misrepresentation:** Be transparent about AI's role in content generation (e.g., clearly label AI-generated summaries or narratives). Avoid creating outputs that could be mistaken for genuine human expression if not intended.
- **Emotional Impact:** Design AI interactions to be supportive and empathetic, not manipulative or intrusive. Avoid features that could hinder natural grieving processes or create unhealthy emotional dependencies.
- **Bias:** Continuously monitor and mitigate algorithmic bias in AI models to ensure fair and inclusive content generation and insights.