

KINNECT

PLP Final Project: A MERN-based Social Networking Platform

Version: 1.0 – August 2025

Prepared By: Fredrick Kiprono.

PLP Academy – February 2025 Cohort

Prepared For: PLP Academy Final Project Assessment

Date: 8th August 2025

Project Overview

Kinnect is a comprehensive digital platform designed to help the younger generation reconnect with their cultural roots and maintain family heritage awareness. The system addresses the growing disconnect between modern youth and their ancestral traditions, particularly focusing on clan-based family structures prevalent in African cultures.

Technical Specifications

- **Frontend:** React.js
- **Backend Database:** MongoDB
- **Architecture:** Full-stack web application

Problem Statement

Cultural Disconnect in Modern Times

Modern urbanization and globalization have created significant challenges for cultural preservation:

- Young people struggle to identify their place within traditional clan structures
- Limited knowledge of family ancestry and cultural totems
- Weakening of traditional knowledge transfer systems
- Geographic dispersion of extended families

Critical Social Issues

The system addresses serious social and cultural concerns:

- **Inadvertent Consanguineous Marriages:** Increasing cases of people unknowingly marrying within prohibited family relationships
- **Loss of Cultural Identity:** Younger generations losing connection to their tribal and clan heritage
- **Family Relationship Confusion:** Extended families unable to determine exact relationships between members
- **Cultural Taboo Violations:** Unintentional breaches of traditional marriage customs that were historically shunned

Cultural Foundation: Kipsigis Tribe Heritage

The project is specifically rooted in the rich cultural heritage of the Kipsigis tribe, with particular focus on preserving and documenting ancestral lineages within traditional clan structures.

Primary Focus: Kibamwek Clan

- **Clan Identity:** Kibamwek clan of the Kipsigis tribe
- **Totem:** Deer (sacred animal representing the clan's spiritual identity)
- **Cultural Significance:** Traditional totems serve as spiritual guardians and identity markers for clan members

- **Marriage Regulations:** Clan-based marriage restrictions prevent intra-clan unions

Ancestral Foundation: House of KALYA (KALYA KO)

- **Patriarchal Lineage:** Tracing back to KALYA, the great-great grandfather and founding patriarch
- **Historical Significance:** KALYA represents the documented starting point for comprehensive family tree mapping
- **Legacy Preservation:** Capturing names and relationships of both living descendants and ancestors
- **Generational Bridge:** Connecting past, present, and future generations through documented lineage

Traditional Knowledge Systems

- **Oral Heritage:** Historical reliance on oral traditions for maintaining family lineages
- **Elder Wisdom:** Community elders as traditional keepers of genealogical knowledge
- **Cultural Continuity:** Ensuring ancestral knowledge passes to coming generations
- **Spiritual Connection:** Maintaining connection between living descendants and ancestral spirits

Solution Features

Ancestral Documentation System

- **KALYA Lineage Mapping:** Comprehensive documentation starting from KALYA (KALYA KO) as the foundational patriarch
- **Multi-Generational Records:** Capturing names, relationships, and stories of all descendants and ancestors
- **Kibamwek Clan Registry:** Detailed member database with deer totem identification
- **Legacy Preservation:** Digital archival of family histories for future generations
- **Cultural Identity Markers:** Integration of traditional totems and clan affiliations

Kipsigis Cultural Heritage Tools

- **Deer Totem Recognition:** Digital representation and significance of the Kibamwek clan's sacred deer totem
- **Kipsigis Traditions:** Documentation of specific tribal customs, ceremonies, and cultural practices
- **KALYA House Heritage:** Preservation of stories, wisdom, and traditions from the founding patriarch
- **Educational Resources:** Information about Kipsigis history, language, and cultural significance

- **Community Connection:** Platform connecting Kibamwek clan members worldwide

Kibamwek Clan Relationship Management

- **Intra-Clan Marriage Prevention:** System alerts for potential marriages within the Kibamwek clan
- **KALYA Descendant Mapping:** Clear identification of all family members descended from KALYA
- **Deer Totem Verification:** Confirmation of clan membership through traditional totem identification
- **Cultural Compliance:** Adherence to Kipsigis marriage customs and clan-based restrictions

Target Impact

Social Benefits

- **Prevention of Inadvertent Inbreeding:** Significant reduction in unknowing consanguineous marriages
- **Cultural Revival:** Renewed interest and engagement with traditional heritage
- **Family Unity:** Strengthened connections between extended family members
- **Educational Value:** Improved cultural literacy among younger generations

Community Outcomes

- Preservation of traditional knowledge systems
- Enhanced cultural identity and pride
- Stronger community bonds and social cohesion
- Reduced violation of cultural taboos and associated social consequences

Implementation Goals

1. **User-Friendly Interface:** Intuitive design accessible to users across different technological literacy levels
2. **Scalable Architecture:** System capable of handling large family networks and multiple tribal groups
3. **Data Security:** Robust protection of sensitive family and personal information
4. **Cultural Sensitivity:** Respectful integration of traditional customs with modern technology
5. **Community Adoption:** Widespread acceptance and usage within target communities

Expected Outcomes

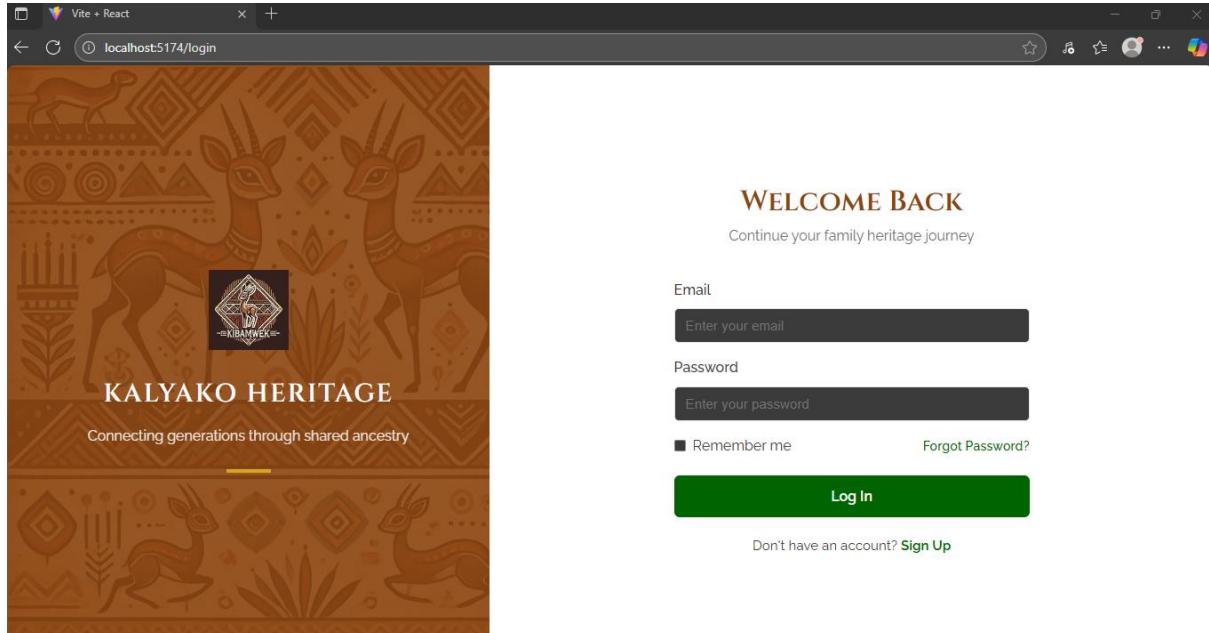
Kinnect aims to bridge the gap between traditional cultural practices and modern lifestyle challenges, ensuring that cultural heritage remains relevant and protective for future generations while preventing serious social issues related to family relationships and cultural identity loss.

System Pages

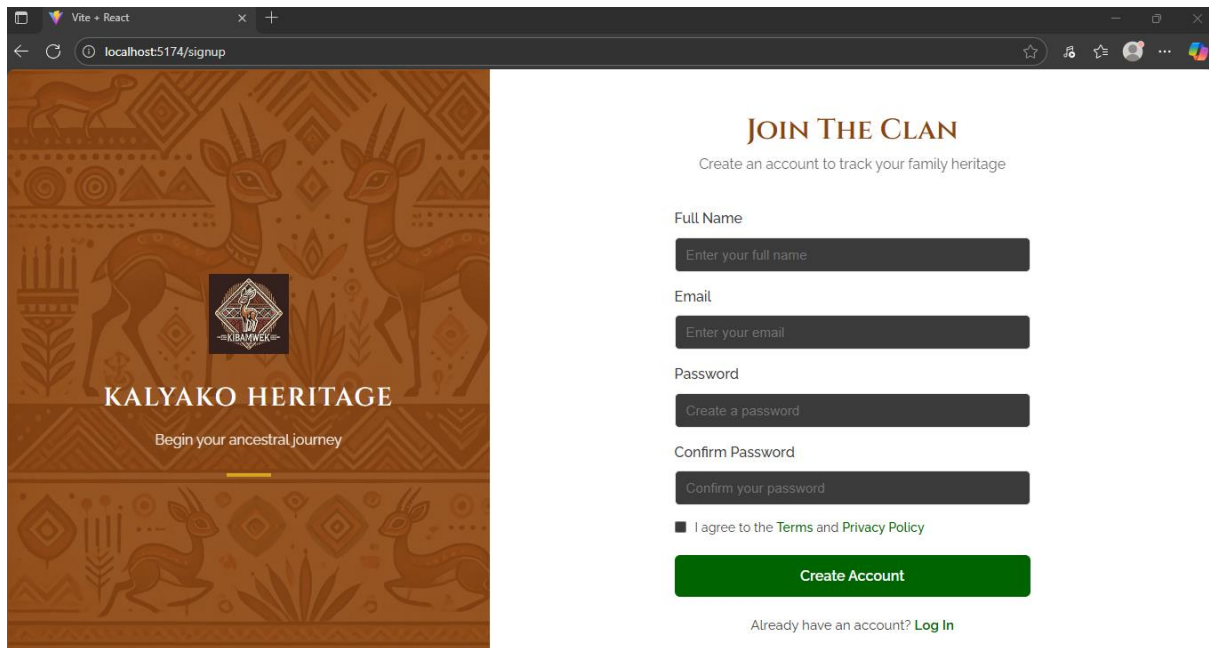
Homepage



Login Page



Registration Page/Signup



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `localhost:5174/signup`. The left sidebar features a brown background with a repeating pattern of antelope heads and a central logo with the text "KIBAMWEK". The main content area is titled "JOIN THE CLAN" and includes the subtitle "Create an account to track your family heritage". The form contains fields for "Full Name", "Email", "Password", and "Confirm Password", each with a placeholder text. Below the fields is a checkbox for "I agree to the Terms and Privacy Policy" and a green "Create Account" button. At the bottom, there is a link "Already have an account? Log In".

JOIN THE CLAN
Create an account to track your family heritage

Full Name
Enter your full name

Email
Enter your email

Password
Create a password

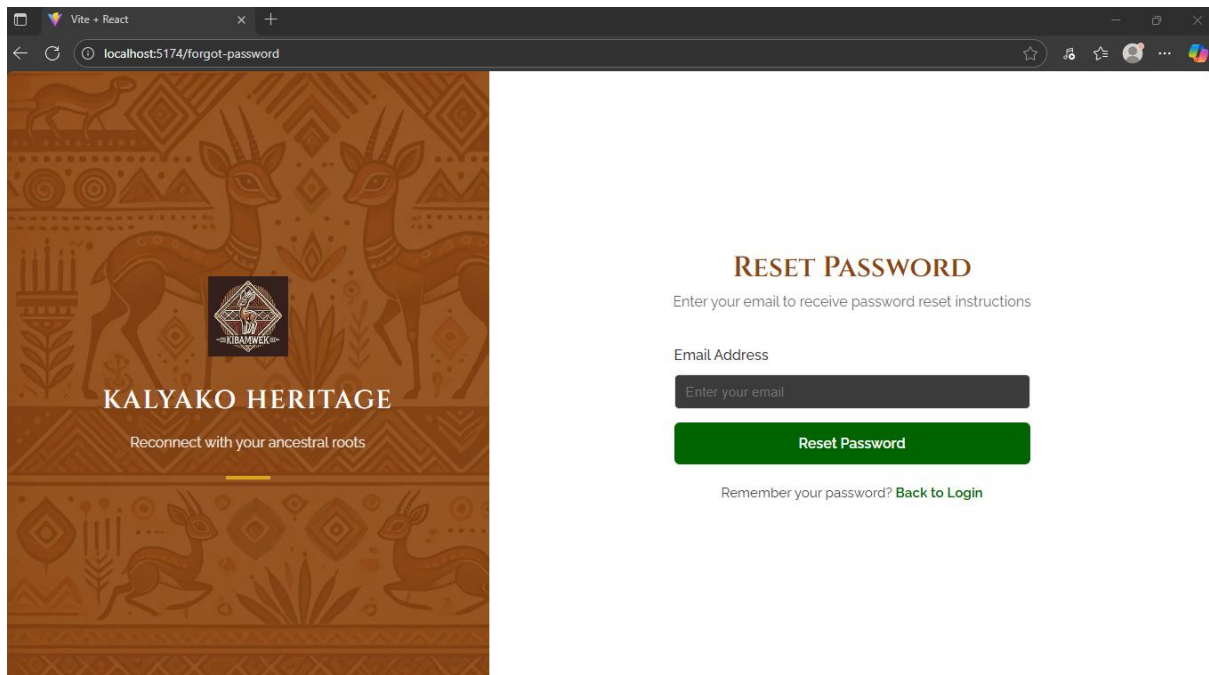
Confirm Password
Confirm your password

☐ I agree to the [Terms](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

Create Account

Already have an account? [Log In](#)

Forgot Password Page



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `localhost:5174/forgot-password`. The left sidebar is identical to the registration page. The main content area is titled "RESET PASSWORD" and includes the subtitle "Enter your email to receive password reset instructions". The form contains a single field for "Email Address" with a placeholder text. Below the field is a green "Reset Password" button. At the bottom, there is a link "Remember your password? Back to Login".

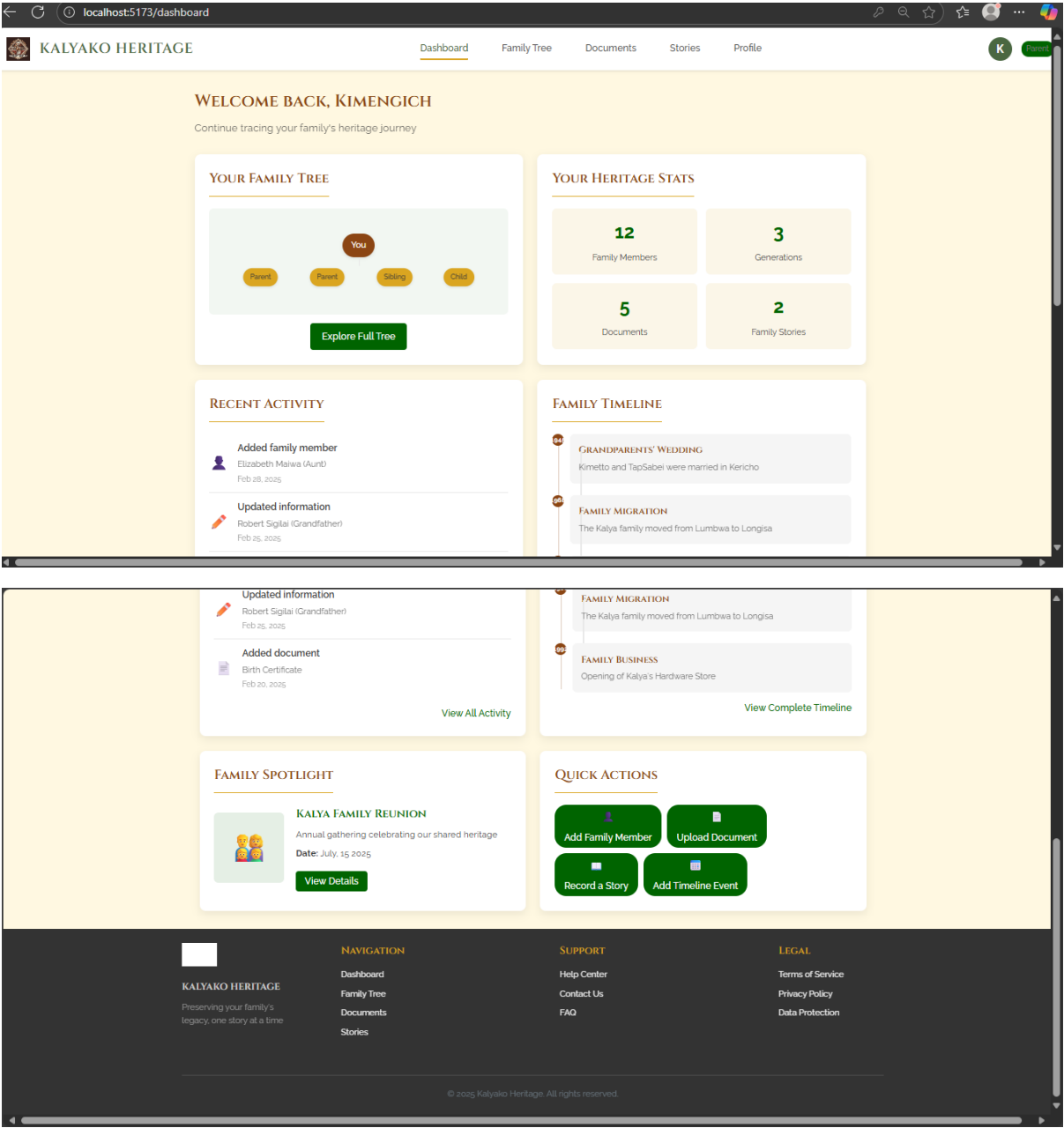
RESET PASSWORD
Enter your email to receive password reset instructions

Email Address
Enter your email

Reset Password


Remember your password? [Back to Login](#)

Landing Page / Dashboard



Family Tree

←↻🔍🏠👤⋮🌈

 KALYAKO HERITAGE

DashboardFamily TreeDocumentsStoriesProfile

K

Logout

PATRILINEAL FAMILY TREE

Explore your family's male lineage and connections across generations

🌱

Table View

📄

+

Add Member

🔍


Search

📄

Export

PATRILINEAL FAMILY TREE

Name	Birth Year	Death Year	Relationship	Lineage	Actions
👤 Kipkalya Kikwai	1930	2015	Father	Kipkalya Kikwai	View Edit
👤 Taprandich Kikwai	1933	Present	Spouse	Kipkalya Kikwai (spouse)	View Edit
👤 Kimutai Kalya	1955	Present	Patriarch	Kimutai Kalya	View Edit
👤 Taputanyi kalya	1958	Present	Spouse	Kimutai Kalya (spouse)	View Edit
👤 Joel Kimetto	1980	Present	Son	Kimutai Kalya > Joel Kimetto	View Edit
👤 Peter Kimetto	2012	Present	Son	Kimutai Kalya > Joel Kimetto > Peter Kimetto	View Edit
👤 Agnes Towett	2010	Present	Daughter	Kimutai Kalya > Joel Kimetto > Agnes Towett	View Edit
👤 John Bett	1983	Present	Son	Kimutai Kalya > John Bett	View Edit

 KALYAKO HERITAGE

Preserving your family's legacy through the male line

NAVIGATION

Dashboard

Family Tree

Documents

Stories

SUPPORT

Help Center

Contact Us

FAQ

LEGAL

Terms of Service


Privacy Policy

Data Protection

© 2025 Kalyako Heritage. All rights reserved.

Documents

←↻🔍🏠👤⋮🌈

 KALYAKO HERITAGE

DashboardFamily TreeDocumentsStoriesProfile

K

Logout

FAMILY DOCUMENTS


Preserve and manage your important family documents

Search documents

All

BI Grid

Upload Document



BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Weldon Ruto

Certificate


June 15, 2020

birthofficialcertificate

View

Download

Share



MARRIAGE LICENSE

Robert & Sarah Kalya

Certificate


April 23, 1979

marriageofficialcertificate

View

Download

Share



FAMILY REUNION PHOTO

Kalya Family

Photo


July 04, 2022

photosreunionfamily

View

Download

Share



GRANDFATHER'S JOURNAL

Chebochok Save

Journal


1990-1970

journalmemoirpersonal

View

Download

Share



FAMILY RECIPE COLLECTION

Micah Langat

Recipe Book


1940-1980

recipetraditioncooking

View

Download

Share

 KALYAKO HERITAGE

Preserving your family's legacy, one story at a time

NAVIGATION

Dashboard

Family Tree

Documents

Stories

SUPPORT

Help Center

Contact Us

FAQ

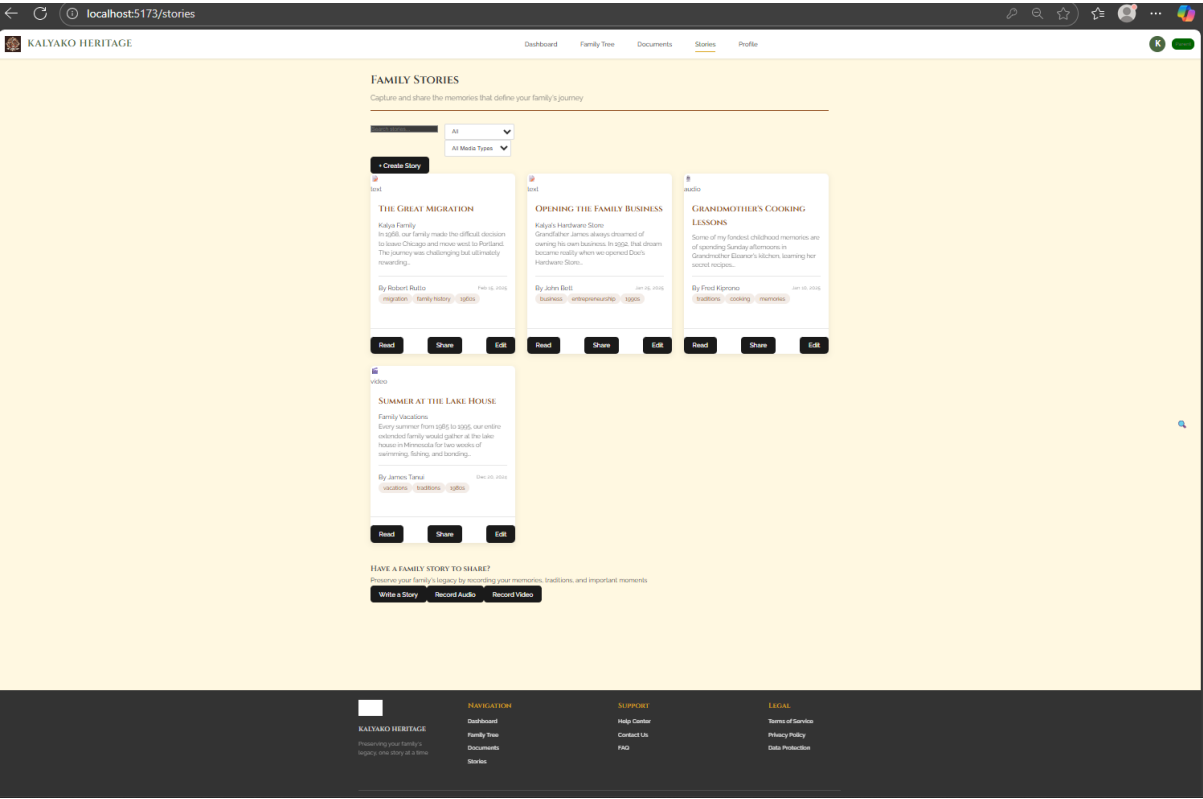
LEGAL

Terms of Service

Privacy Policy

Data Protection

Stories



Profile

