

A vertical grey bar on the left side of the page, featuring a series of dark grey, hook-like shapes that resemble the rings of a spiral notebook binding.

Gifted Memories

Guide Book

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Overview

This project was inspired by my grandmother's practice of journaling to me and my sibling about her own life, and about us as we grew up. I've also been a part of many moments where my family looks through old physical photo albums, and I wondered what these practices might look like in our growing digital world.

In our current day, most cherished memories are captured in a phone, and left in the digital world. We may scroll through them one day while looking for something, but it's scattered throughout all the random selfies or pictures of food. Although we can text and call each other as much as we'd like, there isn't the meaningful reflection that comes from writing a letter.

This web-app allows family members to share their life through journaling and letter writing, and keep them together in a meaningful place. Users can write journals to be delivered all at once (such as when a child grows up), or write letters to keep in touch more often. These can be shared with any number of people, so you can write more personalized entries, or share your story with your whole family. Attachments also allow for more ways to share your story with things like photos, and prompts can help inspire you to write.

Although our world has grown more connected, it has also become more scattered. This is one way that we can keep our closest connections closer, and share our memories in a meaningful way.

Login

In this demo, there are some sample users you can select from on the login page to experience the web-app. You would normally login using your email and password, or create a new account.

Gifted Memories

Sample Users

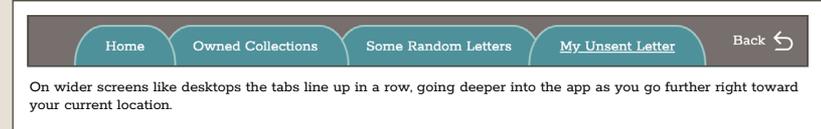
Select a User

Log In

This demo allows you to login to four existing users with some existing sample collections and entries which are shared between them.

Navigation

There are two ways to navigate the web-app. First, you navigate from the home page to your owned collections, shared collections, or settings. Then, the navigation tabs dynamically update depending on what page you're currently on. You can always return to the home page to go somewhere else, or use the back button at any time.



On wider screens like desktops the tabs line up in a row, going deeper into the app as you go further right toward your current location.



On narrower screens, the tabs stack into two layers in order to fit with the deeper levels in the back.

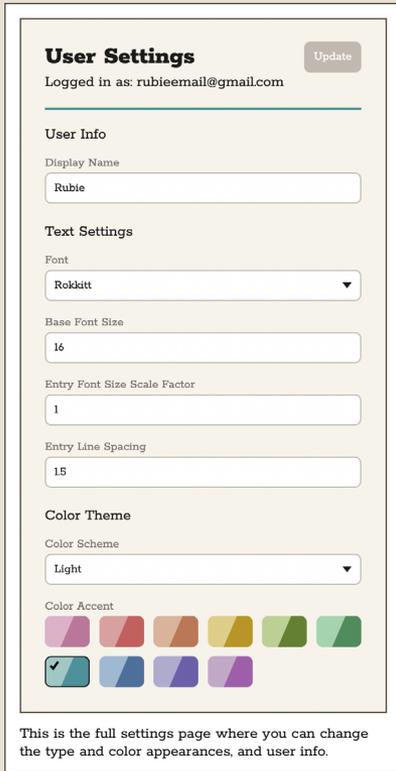


From the home page, you can view your owned or shared collections, or go to your settings.

Settings & Customization

The user can customize the appearance and accessibility of the app in the user settings page. This includes choosing between 16 typefaces, 4 color schemes, and 10 color accents. The light and dark color schemes provide a soft interface while the high contrast versions of each allow for better accessibility.

Additionally, users can select their preferred type size for the interface, scale for the size of entry text, and the line spacing of entry text. This ensures users can comfortably read text entries in the way that works best for them.



This is the full settings page where you can change the type and color appearances, and user info.



This is the light color scheme, a teal accent color, and a font family of Rokkitt.



This is the dark color scheme, an orange accent color, and a font family of Montserrat.



This is the high contrast light color scheme, a yellow accent color, and a font family of Rubik.



This is the high contrast dark color scheme, a plum accent color, and a font family of Crimson Pro.

Collections

Collections are groups of entries that come in one of two types: Journals or letters. Journals are sent to the recipients all at once when you have finished writing it, and letters are sent individually at any time.

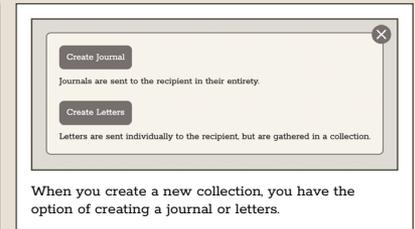
Collections can be shared with any number of recipients, including new or existing users. You can also change the name and appearance of your collection in the settings page.



On your owned collections page you can view each collection you're writing, view your archived collections, and create new collections.



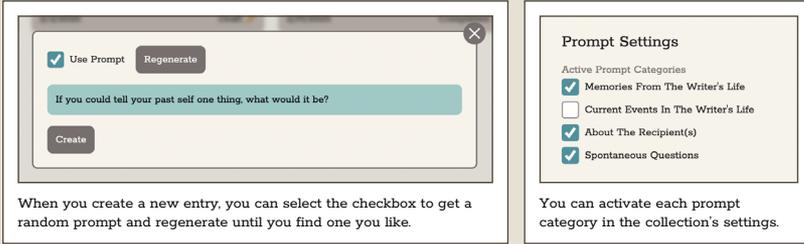
In settings you can customize a collection's name and icon color.



When you create a new collection, you have the option of creating a journal or letters.

Prompts

The user can choose to write entries with prompts in four categories which you can activate in the collection's settings. When creating a new entry, you can randomly generate prompts from those in your active categories, or choose to write without one.



The image shows two parts of the interface. On the left is a dialog box titled 'Use Prompt' with a close button (X). It has a checked 'Use Prompt' checkbox, a 'Regenerate' button, a text input field containing the prompt 'If you could tell your past self one thing, what would it be?', and a 'Create' button. On the right is the 'Prompt Settings' panel. It has a title 'Prompt Settings' and a section 'Active Prompt Categories' with four items: 'Memories From The Writer's Life' (checked), 'Current Events In The Writer's Life' (unchecked), 'About The Recipient(s)' (checked), and 'Spontaneous Questions' (checked).

When you create a new entry, you can select the checkbox to get a random prompt and regenerate until you find one you like.

You can activate each prompt category in the collection's settings.

This demo contains a sample of ten prompts for each of the four categories. Here are some examples:

Memories From The Writer's Life:

What are some of the biggest milestones in your life? What were they like?

Current Events In The Writer's Life:

What part of the day do you look forward to the most?

About The Recipient(s):

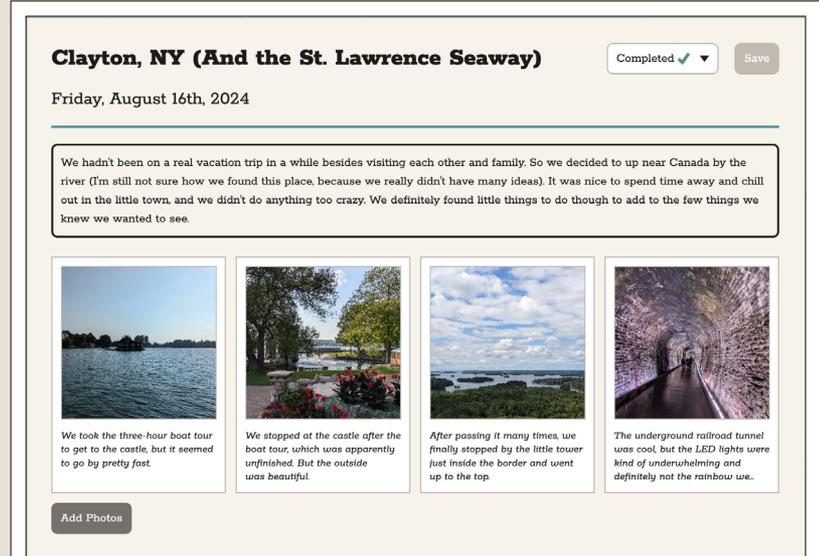
How have the recipient(s) grown and changed since you've known them?

Spontaneous Questions:

If you could go back to any time in your life, when would it be?

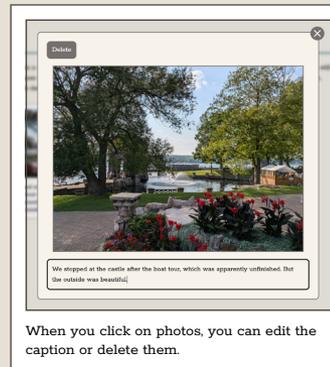
Entries

When writing or editing an entry, you can change the title, date, and text by clicking on each field to edit them. If you chose to use a prompt, it will also show up here for both you and the recipient. Additionally you can add attachments like the photos seen here, and add captions.



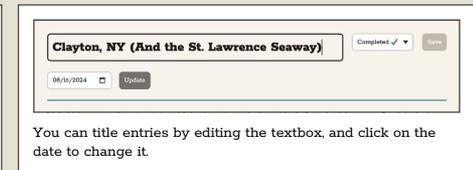
The image shows a full entry page in edit mode. At the top, the title is 'Clayton, NY (And the St. Lawrence Seaway)' with a 'Completed' status and a 'Save' button. Below the title is the date 'Friday, August 16th, 2024'. The main text area contains a paragraph: 'We hadn't been on a real vacation trip in a while besides visiting each other and family. So we decided to up near Canada by the river (I'm still not sure how we found this place, because we really didn't have many ideas). It was nice to spend time away and chill out in the little town, and we didn't do anything too crazy. We definitely found little things to do though to add to the few things we knew we wanted to see.' Below the text are four photo thumbnails. Each has a caption: 1. 'We took the three-hour boat tour to get to the castle, but it seemed to go by pretty fast.' 2. 'We stopped at the castle after the boat tour, which was apparently unfinished. But the outside was beautiful.' 3. 'After passing it many times, we finally stopped by the little tower just inside the border and went up to the top.' 4. 'The underground railroad tunnel was cool, but the LED lights were kind of underwhelming and definitely not the rainbow we...'. There is an 'Add Photos' button at the bottom left of the photo grid.

This is what the full entry page looks like. In this state you are editing the main text, but you can click on any other field to edit it instead.



The image shows a dialog box for editing a photo. It has a close button (X) and a 'Delete' button. The main area shows a photo of a park with a lake and trees. Below the photo is a text input field containing the caption: 'We stopped at the castle after the boat tour, which was apparently unfinished. But the outside was beautiful.' There is also a 'Delete' button next to the caption.

When you click on photos, you can edit the caption or delete them.



The image shows the title and date edit fields. The title is 'Clayton, NY (And the St. Lawrence Seaway)' and the date is '08/16/2024'. There are 'Update' buttons next to both fields.

You can title entries by editing the textbox, and click on the date to change it.

Sharing & Sending

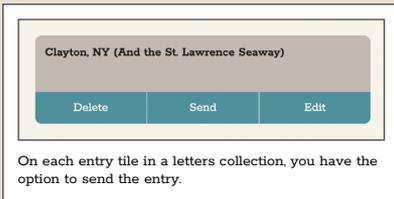
You can share collections with any number of users. With journals you send all of the entries at once when you are finished, and with letters you send each entry individually. Once you send a journal or entry, it becomes locked and you cannot edit it in the future, but you can always add new recipients.

You can add or delete recipients in a collection's settings page. Users which have already signed up will have a green indicator, and their name will be displayed. Emails which have not been registered have a red indicator, and will be notified when you share a collection via email.

There is also an optional feature to have a collection sent if your account is inactive for one year, ensuring memories aren't lost forever. You will also be notified before they are sent in case you would like to cancel this sending.



This is the confirmation message popup when sending a journal, indicating who you are sending the journal to and what entries will be sent.



On each entry tile in a letters collection, you have the option to send the entry.



In settings, you can add and delete recipients using their email address.

Future Features

There are some features of the app which have been omitted for the purpose of this demo, but are important to mention.

First, although the entries currently only support photo attachments, there is future potential to add other media options including audio recordings and video.

Second, the users would have the option to save hard copies of their files either as an alternative means of sharing, or as a method of preservation. Each entry would save as a folder including a text document, and any added attachments.

Third, non-existing users would be notified about any new shared collections via email, and existing users could set up notifications for any new shared collections or entries.

