Two Possible Definitions for Memoir

“A memoir is how one remembers one’s own life, while an autobiography is history, requiring research, dates, facts double-checked”
—from *Palimpsest* by Gore Vidal (Penguin, 1996).

“Unlike autobiography, which moves in a dutiful line from birth to fame, memoir narrows the lens, focusing on a time in the writer’s life that was unusually vivid, such as childhood or adolescence, or that was framed by war or travel or public service or some other special circumstance”