

Digital Restoration

A Cat's Mark on History from The Hill



BACKGROUND

Kelli Miriani-Ripple was sorting through some family memorabilia when she discovered a framed proclamation from the Mayor of St. Louis which celebrated the anniversary and community involvement of Kelli's grandparents, Helen and Tony Colombo. Tony was raised in St. Louis's The Hill and became an integral part of the local Italian immigrant community, eventually opening Colombo's Tavern, a staple of the neighborhood even today.

While Kelli planned to hang the framed document, her cat Tommy had other plans. No more than a minute had passed after Kelli set down the proclamation before Tommy marked his territory and permanently damaged the document. Seeking to restore the cat-sodden proclamation allowed Kelli to consider fixing another one-of-a-kind document, a resolution regarding the Colombos' anniversary, which had a typo in Helen's maiden name.

Challenge

Fixing a typing mistake isn't the kind of undertaking most digital preservationists find on their doorstep as most preservation projects emphasize protecting the original content of a document, as with the proclamation. However, since Kelli intended to use these digitally-corrected documents for personal display, she wanted the resolution replica to have the correct information and the proclamation free of Tommy's mark.

Solution

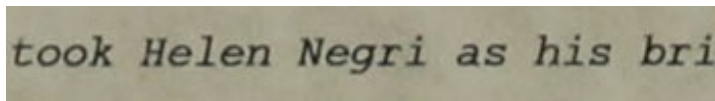
Though the proclamation was discolored, blurred, and visibly damaged, Anderson Archival digitally reconstructed the text at the bottom of the document. Careful scanning of the oversized document resulted in a clear, perfectly editable image. A digital copy preserved the original in its cat-branded state, while a restored version provided a clean replica that Kelli could reprint and display. The typos in the original resolution document required digital replacement of several letters that needed to match the spacing and coloring of the document around them. Anderson Archival used data from other parts of the document to recreate the text as it might have looked if the original was written correctly.

Results

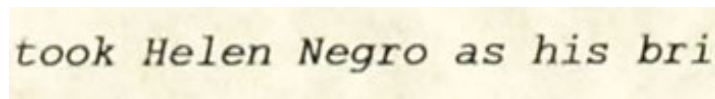
Kelli and her family now have digital variants of two important family documents, free of both cat urine damage and typos.

Some key outcomes include:

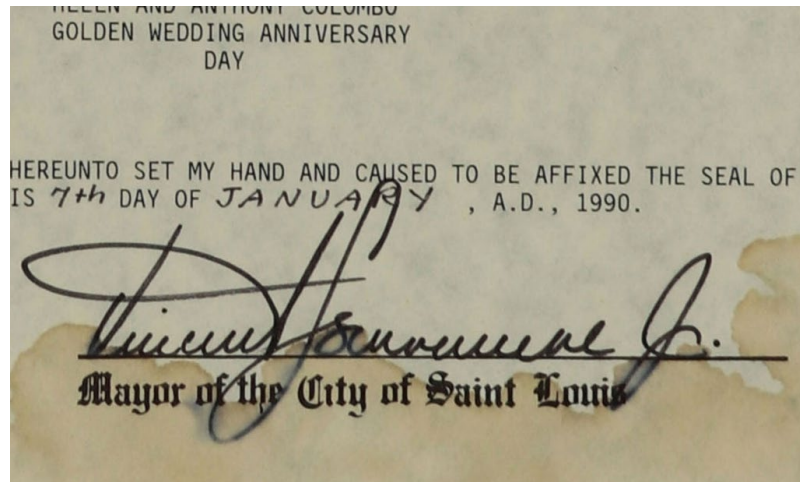
- A damage-free, digitally-restored copy of a key family artifact to display
- A corrected version of another important family document
- Digital counterparts that can take the place of the originals to prevent further damage to the documents
- Gentle reprimands to Tommy the cat, and a digitization partner on deck if he decides to make more artistic edits to Kelli's family memorabilia



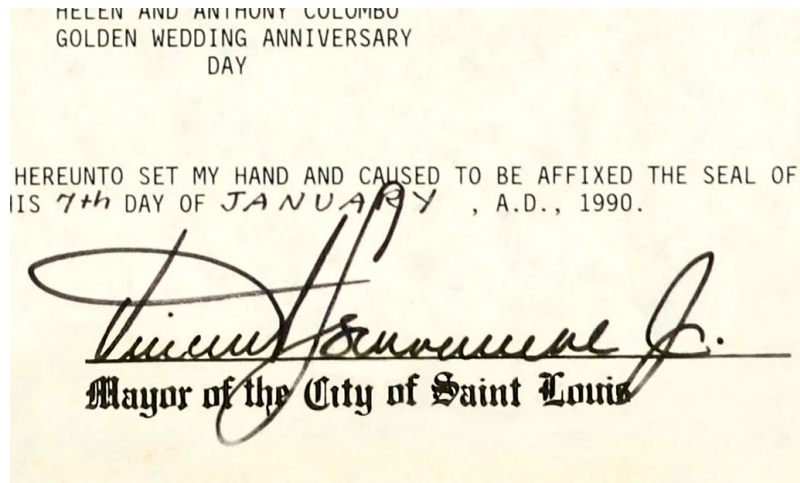
Before Restoration



After Restoration



Before Restoration



After Restoration



Outcome

The Colombo-Miriani family now has two more beautifully restored replicas that honor Anthony and Helen Colombo to display for years to come. Her unique family history will continue to grow as Kelli discovers new family artifacts.

Anderson Archival, a division of Anderson Technologies, provides digital preservation and archive consulting services to protect, preserve, and share what matters most. To learn more, please contact us today!