~ THEODORE OHMAN ~

Upon arriving in the United States, Theodore Ohman made a trip to the Library of Congress to see the Constitution and the Declaration. Ohman was horrified to learn that the Declaration had been permanently damaged in 1823 and the Constitution was in very fragile condition. After seeing these marred and damaged originals, Ohman dedicated the remainder of his life to re-create both the Declaration and the Constitution as they originally appeared in 1776 & 1787 respectively, so that people would always be able to appreciate the two documents that made and keep us free.

Ohman realized that if he could obtain one of the original 1823 parchment engraving prints, it would contain a more exact image of the original Declaration than the now damaged original itself. After an exhaustive search, Ohman located one of the parchment copies made by William Stone and immediately purchased it. From this, the text of the script and precise original signatures of the Founding Fathers were obtained for reproduction. As luck would have it, Ohman also located a negative of one of the last photographics taken of the original Declaration before it was sealed in its permanent glass shrine in 1903. From this picture, Ohman was able to reproduce the appearance of the cracked and smudged original parchment.

Source: The Jeffersonian.com – The History of the Declaration of Independence.