

Over the summer, I researched the Reformation history of the Åland Islands during the 16th and 17th centuries. The Maurice Price Scholarship allowed me to travel to Åland for July and August and researched in the Provincial Archives of Åland. There I found primary sources such as court records, 17th-century bibles, and letters that answered my questions about the reformation on Åland. My work over the summer bolstered my interest and excitement for this topic and has now become the foundation of an Honours Essay I am writing in the Religion Program over the 2023-2024 school year. Below is a brief description of Åland and my summer there.

The Åland Islands is an archipelago in the Baltic Sea located between Sweden and Finland. Åland is an autonomous, Swedish-speaking region of Finland. It is a unique area for its sense of independence and its connection to Sweden and Finland. My interest in Åland developed because of my family connections to the area. I spent my childhood summers visiting family there, so I am fluent in Swedish and was happy to use my second language skill in my research. It is with this background that I pursued my project under the supervision of Professor Johannes Wolfart.

My research began with the visitation record, *Acta Visitoria*, written by a local vicar and governor named Boethius Murenus during the 17th century. This book provides detailed notes and observations from Murenus who observed the local people and their relationship to the sixteen parishes across Åland. I interpreted that this book documented the final moments of the Reformation on Åland. I spent my time in the archives finding evidence of a slow, and partial reformation throughout the 16th century that preceded Murenus's time on the island.

I spent six weeks on Åland over July and August balancing visiting family and spending time in the archives. During my early days old Swedish grammar and spelling combined with intricate cursive made reading a slow and almost impossible process. However, I quickly adapted and became comfortable reading documents such as court records. There I found evidence of an apathetic culture towards religion. A culture of farmers and fishers who voiced concern about land and fair payment. There was evidence of popular belief and magic used by the local people. I scoured the archives for evidence of these same sentiments and significant names connected to court and clergy figures connected to the Finnish and Swedish reformations.

The local archivists supported my research when they showed me their collections and welcomed me kindly. They often held the archives open for longer periods so I could get a full day of research. They even reached out to the local press. The newspaper and radio on Åland shared my story, which was a flattering and exciting moment.

There has been little research about the reformation on Åland. Historians describe this period as a slow period with little notable change, and the development of the Lutheran church and practices grew naturally alongside the Swedish Kingdom that occupied Finland and Åland during this period. I am excited to introduce a new narrative to this period with exciting shifts in the relationship between clergy, the public, and the court. I also developed a strong interest in archival work that I hope to pursue further in the future.