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## The Old Picture

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# The Old Picture

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This photo was sent in by SAG reader P. Robert Willey, Bloomington, Illinois. His e-mail is <hogworc@comcast.net>

The photograph is taken in the 1880's in Sweden. Individuals are from left to right: *Charlotta Ellida Nordgren* (b. 1869 in Stockholm), *Christina Charlotta (Perlström) Nordgren* (b. 1844 in Gävle) & *Anna Charlotta Nordgren* (b. 1875 in Gävle).

These females are my grandmother (Anna Charlotta Nordgren), her mother and sister who sailed from Liverpool & Queenstown, England and arrived in Boston, Massachusetts, November 14, 1887, aboard the *SS Pavonia*. They settled in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The father of the family, the journeyman glovemaker *Johan Axel Nordgren* (b. 1844 in Gävle) had left already in 1886 from Gävle with a ticket for New York. He had evidently found work in Worcester, as his wife and daughters travelled directly there the next year.

The photographer was called *Hanna Bergdahl* on this photo, but her full name was Klara Johanna Bergdahl, born in 1840 in Ekeby (Uppl.). She seems to have started her photo studio in Gävle in 1871, and was still active in 1900, as she was found in the Swedish census for 1900.

It is interesting that many women worked as photographers and had their own photo studios. This was one of the "new" professions that started to grow during the later 1800s and was not reserved for men, as were many of the traditional professions, like carpentry, comb making, or other older guild crafts.