

By Sharla. 2024. This is a string of Ancestry.com messaging with "tammera jones," whose named turned out to be Tammy. She had researched the Anderson family for a dear friend, the late Lana Koenig, who was a great granddaughter of Victor F. Anderson's brother Anson. I messaged Tammy because it appeared that she had linked the wrong Victor Anderson in the family tree, just to give her a heads up, and we soon became cohorts in investing Victor F. Anderson.

Sharla

Hello from Pawnee County, Nebraska. I'm with the Table Rock (NE) Historical society and doing some research on Gardy and Vic Anderson, who I believe were parents of Oliver and Mary Anderson of Steinauer. Vic is my main focus because I'm researching his career with Robinson's Circus. As the source information reflects (such as his 1899 marriage license, his middle initial was F, but you have a Victor N. linked. After his wife Blanche died in 1932, I believe he went to California and married Elizabeth Pew --they had been circus performers together 40 years before according to the news articles of 1934. Then I've lost track of him. At that time, he said that he had traveled with Buffalo Bill's show in 1893. One of the many newspapers who reported that marriage included a photograph of him and his bride, both 70s by then, and it sure looks like the fellow in a circus promo picture I have. Does any of this sound familiar? He really was an interesting fellow and I'd like to flesh out what I can about his life before I move on to another project. It seems you are the main tree who has done serious research on that family tree so I thought I would reach out to you for your thoughts, etc. Thanks for your time! Sharla, sharla.cerra@gmail.com

Tammy:

My best friend was Lana Joyce Koenig. Anson Anderson and Christine Cool were her grand parents. Victor Nelson was Anson's brother I believe. I did her tree and she did it as well. I can revisit it and see if I find any more info but I built the tree with records other than Lana giving me her parents and Maternal grand parents names. Tammy

08:32 PM

I found a newspaper obituary for Victor Nelson that said he died at the home of his daughter Leatha Russell in Laurel Yellowstone Montana July 18 1945. I found him living with Nico Victor in 1940. I did not find him in California.

09:53 PM

I typed Lana's Grand parents names wrong. Anson was her great Grandfather. His son Nelson Jay was married to Christine Cool

Sharla:

Ok, thanks! I think Victor F. was the brother, though. He seemed pretty careful to use that middle initial. Victor F. married Blanche Stanley in 1899 in Auburn and listed Oliver and Mary Anderson as his parents, father born in Sweden and mother in New York. Victor F. was born in 1865. A link to Victor N. on Findagrave drew a message to me that he was not the son of Oliver and Mary. I suppose it may not matter for your tree, of course, so I am just passing the information along. I'm keeping notes about Victor N., just in case, but the jury's still out for me. Thanks for your prompt response! Sharla

Tammy:

I found Oliver who married Mary Stantan obituary and it proves who his children were. Victors Nelsons kids death certificates have his name as do their newspaper obits. It shows that Victor Nelson died at his daughter Leatha's home in Yellowstone Montana. It even mentions he had lived with NIO Victor in South Dakota the years previous.

10:46 PM

It is possible that they had named more than one child Victor.

10:47 PM

II added the obits to their profiles

Sharla

understand what you are saying but your Victor Nelson Anderson was born in Sweden, the son of Mr and Mrs Sven Anderson, according to his obituary. You

have Victor Nelson as the son of Oliver and Mary Anderson, born in Sweden and New York respectively, not Mr and Mrs Sven Anderson. Victor Nelson's obituary gives his arrival in America as 1879, at age 14. However, The 1870 census shows Victor F Anderson with Oliver and Mary at age 5, and in 1880 with Anson and Axel etc. There are others. And Victor N married in 1896 and had children while Victor F, the son of Oliver and Mary, married Blanche May Stanley in 1899, their marriage license is in ancestry and gives the parents names. Newspapers.com has accounts of Victor F. And his brothers Anson and Axel and Gardy in the social columns and includes mentions of wife May as well as the brothers. I don't doubt all you have about Victor Nelson Anderson, and they were the same age and from the same general area, but Anson's brother was not born in Sweden. If you like, I'm happy to share the newspaper clippings, 1899 marriage certificate, 1912 obituary of Anson and Victor's father, obituary of Victor Nelson Anderson, etc. I haven't found obits for Anson or Axel but they might help. Anyway, I think I have what I need for the historical society. Like I say, I'm happy to share what I have found though. If you would like it, give me your email address, otherwise I will let it lie.

Tammy

I was going to contact you again and thank you for contacting me and pointing out the mistake I had made in my friend's family tree. I found the state death record last night for Victor Nelson Anderson and saw that while the rest of his family, wife and children are correct. I had him with the wrong family of origin and Victor F. family is my friend Lana's. It does say in Victor Nelson's newspaper obituary and death certificate that he is the one buried in Fairbury. So we have no idea where Victor F is. Again thank you for contacting me and pointing me in the right direction.

Sharla

Thanks for letting me know. I'm always a little nervous about questioning someone else's research but Victor F was such an interesting, larger than life, fellow. If your friend Lana is still alive she might get a kick out of learning about that collateral branch of her line! I guess we may never know what happened to him.

Tammy:

Lana passed away in 2021 but she and I both worked her family line. She saw that Victor and his first wife were in a circus and she loved that. I continued filling out the tree I had started to help her and added the other Victor into her Victor F profile. I am following a possible hunch now I found an Annie E. Sylvester Who was Mrs Anderson in Los Angeles when she died and was famous for her work in circuses riding unicycles and the like. She died in Los Angeles Oct 14 1938 as per 3 different news paper articles. One Michigan one Indiana and 1 New York. I also found on Google an article that was published about the circus performer in a magazine in 1972 and am trying to tie her to our Victor.

The article says that she was born Annie Elizabeth James. She took Sylvester as a stage name after a saint, her parents were very religious. And she had 4 failed marriages.

02:56 PM

Lana was also larger than life. I miss her dearly.

From Tammy: [Link to an amazing PDF](#), excerpt from magazine article about Annie Sylvester, circus performer, who at the end of a long life of drama retired to Redondo beach, where she married Victor Frank Cody, as he was then known professionally; Tammy and I are sure it is our Victor F. Anderson

Sharla

think I have her!!!! She was Elizabeth pew when they married, had previously been married. I was just looking for her! When they were engaged to be made the papers all over the country because they had met as circus performers 40 years before. I'm not sure of o can send you a link but I'll try in a minute. There is a picture of them together!

05:42 PM

Tamm:

Here they are!

05:43 PM

I'll add the newspaper cite in a sec. The pic was in only a couple of the articles but the story ran nationwide

05:44 PM

Santa Rosa Republican, December 13, 1934, page 11 for that article with picture.

05:51 PM

You may have seen this. It's the photo that got me started. The sign says Cody, and the board has written Cody's shoot Remington. Rifles. Today I found an explanation. Vic went by zPonca Bill Cody for years, claiming he was buffalo bill's nephew and had a ranch (!) in Table Rock, Nebraska. I know where he and wife lived when not in the road. Not a ranch, lol! The same article has him spinning some doozies as anecdotes. What a fascinating guy!

Sharla

Tammy

I will try to find the newspaper as it did not send. Were you able to find the cool pdf? It was full of info on her life. I am trying to find her family. It is weird their names were never mentioned.

08:13 PM

I have not been able to find the Santa Rosa News But after you told me about Vic going by Cody I reread on page 42 of the PDF it says in 1895 she and Viictor Frank Cody had courted when they worked for Miles Orton Circus. When they met again she married him and he left her for another woman after 4 days.

Sharla

I haven't had a chance to read it! I want to save it, and I'm getting ready for a three day trip tomorrow morning. So I knew his name was Victor F. But this is the first I've seen Frank. And what a great story! I have lots of news articles

from newspapers.com. I would be happy to email them to you. I think if I send a link, you have to have a subscription to view it. Otherwise, I hope to be uploading it to our website very soon, and you would be able to download from there! I will send you the link when I do it

Tammy:

I would love that! I believe I found Annie Elizabeth James family!

Sharla

Ok. I have some projects going but will try to upload all my sources later this week. You can download from there.

06:01 PM

I wonder where she is buried. Perhaps he is there too?

06:02 PM

Your friend Lana would have enjoyed this detective adventure, I'll bet!

Tammy

Without a doubt Lana would. I know how excited she was when she realized that Victor and his first wife were circus performers. Lana would love all of the new information about Victor. Lana also had a fascinating personality.

End of conversation as of June 14, 2024