Annie Jones (bearded woman)

**Annie Jones Elliot** (July 14, 1865 – October 22, 1902)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annie_Jones_%28bearded_woman%29#cite_note-1) was an [American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) [bearded woman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bearded_woman), born in [Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia). She toured with showman [P. T. Barnum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P._T._Barnum) as a [circus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circus) attraction. Whether the cause of her condition was [hirsutism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hirsutism) or an unrelated genetic condition that affects children of both sexes and continues into adult years is unknown. Many photographers, including [Mathew Brady](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathew_Brady), took her portraits during her lifetime, which were widely distributed. As an adult, Jones became the country's top "bearded lady" and acted as a spokesperson for Barnum’s performers. Jones married Richard Elliot in 1881, but [divorced](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divorce) him in 1895 for her childhood sweetheart William Donovan, who died, leaving Jones a widow. In 1902, Jones died in [Brooklyn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooklyn) of [tuberculosis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuberculosis).

Early life

Jones was born in [Marion, Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marion%2C_Virginia), the county seat of [Smyth County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smyth_County), in the southwestern end of the Commonwealth, on July 14, 1865. When Jones joined Barnum's exhibition as a child of only nine months, Jones' parents received a $150-a-week salary. She was billed as a new "infant [Esau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esau)." By the age of five, she had a mustache and sideburns and became well known as the "Bearded Girl." US photographer [Mathew Brady](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathew_Brady) took Jones' portrait as a child in 1865.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annie_Jones_%28bearded_woman%29#cite_note-2) A number of additional portraits were taken of Jones during her lifetime and were widely distributed.

In an incident which may have been one of Barnum's [publicity stunts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Publicity_stunt), a [New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_%28state%29) [phrenologist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phrenology) kidnapped Jones when she was a young child. Barnum and the police found her exhibited in a church fair. When the man claimed the child as his, the matter went to court. The judge had Jones separated from the others before it was her time to testify. When the child was taken to the courtroom, she went straight to her parents when she saw them. The judge declared the case closed.



A poster depicting Jones sometime in the fourteen years of her marriage to Richard Elliot

# General Tom Thumb

**Charles Sherwood Stratton** (January 4, 1838 – July 15, 1883), better known by his [stage name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stage_name) "**General Tom Thumb**", was a [dwarf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwarfism) who achieved great fame as a performer under [circus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circus) pioneer [P.T. Barnum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P.T._Barnum).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Tom_Thumb#cite_note-1)

## Childhood and early life

Stratton was the son of a [Bridgeport, Connecticut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bridgeport%2C_Connecticut), carpenter named Sherwood Edward Stratton, son of Seth Sherwood Stratton and Amy Sharpe. Sherwood [married his first cousin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cousin_marriage) Cynthia Thompson, daughter of Joseph Thompson and Mary Ann Sharpe. Charles Stratton's maternal and paternal grandmothers, Amy and Mary Ann Sharpe, were stated to be small twin girls born on July 11, 1781/83 in Oxford, New Haven, Connecticut.

Born in Bridgeport to parents who were of medium height, Charles was a relatively large baby, weighing 9 pounds 8 ounces (4.3 kg) at birth.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Tom_Thumb#cite_note-Thumb1874-2) He developed and grew normally for the first six months of his life, at which point he was 25 inches (64 cm) tall and weighed 15 pounds (6.8 kg). Then he suddenly stopped growing. His parents became concerned when, after his first birthday, they noticed he had not grown at all in the previous six months.

By late 1842 (4 years old), Stratton grew only one inch from when he was six months old. Apart from this, he was a totally normal, healthy child, with several siblings who were of average size.

## Adoption by Barnum

Phineas T. Barnum, a distant relative (half fifth [cousin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cousin), [twice removed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cousin#Asymmetric_definitions)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Tom_Thumb#cite_note-roberts-3)), heard about Stratton and after contacting his parents, taught the boy how to sing, dance, mime, and impersonate famous people. Barnum also went into business with Stratton's father, who died in 1855. Stratton made his first tour of America at the age of five, with routines that included impersonating characters such as [Cupid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cupid) and [Napoleon Bonaparte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleon_Bonaparte) as well as singing, dancing and comical banter. It was a huge success and the tour expanded.

A year later, Barnum took young Stratton on a tour of Europe, making him an international celebrity.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Tom_Thumb#cite_note-passport-4) Stratton appeared twice before [Victoria of the United Kingdom of Great Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_of_the_United_Kingdom) He also met the three-year-old [Prince of Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_of_Wales), who would become [King Edward VII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Edward_VII). In 1845, he triumphed at the [Théâtre du Vaudeville (France)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Th%C3%A9%C3%A2tre_du_Vaudeville) in the play [*Le petit Poucet*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hop-o%27-My-Thumb#Summary) of [Dumanoir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dumanoir%22%20%5Co%20%22Dumanoir) and [Clairville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clairville_%28Louis-Fran%C3%A7ois_Nicola%C3%AFe%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Clairville%20%28Louis-Fran%C3%A7ois%20Nicola%C3%AFe%29). The tour was a huge success, with crowds mobbing him wherever he went. After his three-year tour in Europe, Stratton began his rise to stardom in the United States. Stratton’s fame grew at an astonishing rate, and his popularity and celebrity surpassed that of any actor within his lifetime.

Stratton’s first performances in New York marked a turning point in the history of these ‘unusual’ show entertainment. Prior to Stratton’s debut, the presentation of ‘human curiosities’ for the purpose of entertainment was deemed dishonourable and seen as an unpleasing carnival attraction. However, after viewers were introduced to Stratton and performances, he was able to change the perception people held toward these kind of shows. Stratton’s lively and entertaining performances made these types of carnival shows one of the most favoured forms of theatrical entertainment in the United States.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Tom_Thumb#cite_note-:0-5)

While Barnum sought to capitalize on Stratton’s small stature, he also aimed to highlight and showcase his many true gifts as a performer. For example, Stratton was noted to be clever in his acts. In addition, he was a talented actor, singer, dancer and comedian. Critics judged him on his merits as a professional entertainer.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Tom_Thumb#cite_note-:0-5)

In 1846 he started to grow for the first time since the first few months of his life, but extremely slowly. In January 1851 Stratton stood exactly 2 feet 5 inches (74 cm) tall. On his 18th birthday, he was measured at 2 feet 8.5 inches (82.6 cm) tall. On his 21st birthday he was 86 cm tall.



# Fedor Jeftichew – Jo Jo the Dog Faced Boy

Fedor was born in Russia in 1868 and like his father, Adrien Konstantinov Jeftichew, the boy had generalized hypertrichosis. This condition, also know as “werewolf syndrome”, results in thick hair covering all of the body except the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet. Fedor was exhibited initially in France with his father, also know as “The Siberian Dog Man”, when Fedor was just five years old.

After his died, Fedor was taken to England where he was exhibited by Charles Reynolds. In 1884 P.T. Barnum heard of the hairy boy and brought the sixteen year old to the United States to appear in his Barnum and London Circus.

To make this new exhibit more appealing to the public, Barnum renamed Fedor, “Jo Jo The Dog faced Boy” and created an elaborate story regarding the boy’s background. According to the story, a hunter in Kostroma tracked a wild man and his child to a nearby cave where the two had been living as savages. The hunter and some village men later cornered the savages in the cave and several of the village men were killed, as the father fiercely defended himself and his offspring. In the end, however, both savages were captured. While the young wild boy accepted his domestication and with the help of scientists who taught the boy to wear clothes and speak. The father so wild that he could not be civilized had to be confined to a cage, where he soon died.

Fedor toured with Barnum’s circus until around the turn of the century. He then toured the world until his death on January 21, 1904, while on exhibit in Greece.

