

This article has been transcribed from the *St. Thomas Times*  
St. Thomas, Thursday, September 24, 1885

## JUMBO

His Huge Carcase Burned  
And the Skeleton and Hide Shipped to Rochester

Interview with Barnum

Noted Scientists Visit St. Thomas

### *From Thursday's Daily Times*

The death of so noted an animal as Jumbo deserves more than the passing notice accorded to him in yesterday's TIMES. According to Mr. Matthew Scott, his keeper for 21 years, who ought to know as much about the departed as any one, Jumbo was the most trustable animal living. Susceptible to gratitude and capable of strong attachment, he evinced the same affection for Scott that the latter possessed for him, and seemed to guess whatever could please his master. He never mistook Scott's words, received his orders with attention, executed them with prudence and eagerness, and caressed him with his trunk almost daily as an expression of affection. In fact his attachment to Scott was so strong and lasting, and his affection so great, that he refused to serve under any other person. As stated in last night's TIMES, he was the first to scent the danger which threatened him and was endeavouring to obey his master's orders and reach the one avenue of escape at the end of the circus train, when he was struck by the railway juggernaut. His bereaved keeper remained by his side during the ten or twelve minutes after being struck, and when the dying brute opened his eyes and looked up pathetically at Gray, one could read in their expression the order and outward appearance of his interior affections.

Probably six thousand persons have visited the spot where Jumbo's remains lie during the past thirty two hours. At all hours of the day and until late in the evening yesterday scores of persons surrounded the spot where his mammoth carcase lies and consulted upon the various peculiarities of his hide. His legs, like massive pillars, straight and stiff, extend down the bank almost like a fresco, the tops overlapped by his mammoth ears, large even in proportion to his body. The skin is hard, thick and callous. It is bar of hair; a few bristles issued out of his chops, on the ears and thighs, but these have nearly all been removed by curious relic hunters, who will doubtless cherish them as souvenirs. An interesting discussion arose among a number of those who surrounded the body as to whether the front or hind legs were the highest. The forelegs seemed to be higher those behind, yet by actual measurement the reverse was proven to be the case, the front legs being six feet in height and the hind ones six feet nine inches. The tail presents the best evidence of the work of these relic hunters. Almost every one of the tuft of large, black, shiny and solid bristles which garnished its extremity, have been torn out.

The contract between the Barnum CO. And the G.T.R. explicitly states that the railroad company will not be responsible for any loss sustained through accident to a larger amount that \$15,000. Several officials of the Engineering Dept., G.T.R., arrived this morning and are making a plan of the vicinity of the accident.

### ***Arrival of the Scientists***

Prof. Ward, of Rochester, proprietor of Ward's Natural Science Institution received orders from P.T. Barnum to skin Jumbo and remove his bones. The hide will be stuffed at the Institute in Rochester and afterwards forwarded to Tuft's College in Boston, to which it has been presented by Mr. Barnum. The skeleton will be forwarded to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington and placed there among the natural curiosities of the United States.

Prof. Ward arrived this morning, accompanied by C.E. Kelly and Wm. Cutchley, taxidermists, of Rochester, and after procuring a staff of local butchers, set to work to remove his hide.

### ***Cremating the Carcase***

After the flesh is removed from the carcase it will be burned, Medical Health Officer Tweedale having given orders to that effect this morning. It was originally intended to bury the meat, but this will not be allowed. His funeral pyre will be built to-night, and all curiosity seekers who have not as yet secured relics can obtain some of the ashes of the defunct king of the elephants. One ingenious youth carried away with him this afternoon a piece of Jumbo's trunk, and states that he purposes having the hide tanned and converted into a cover for a scrap-book.

### ***Boiling the Hide***

After the removal of the hide it will be taken to Griffin's pork factory and salted. One hundred pounds of rock elm and 10 lbs. Powered elm have been purchased to be used for the service.

### ***Barnum's Regret***

P.T. Barnum received the news of the death of Jumbo while at breakfast in the Murray Hill Hotel at New York yesterday morning. Mr. Barnum was very much affected and said that Jumbo's death ended the enterprise of taking the show to Europe next year as had been intended. Jumbo died without progeny, but a posthumous calf is expected in February, 1887, when the parturition period of twenty-two months will have ended his consort. Mr. Barnum valued Jumbo at \$300,000 for exhibition and breeding purposes, and will bring suit against the Grand Trunk Railway Company for damages in that amount.

### *Mourning Over the Loss of Jumbo*

A London, Eng., despatch reads: - The morning papers contain column obituaries lamenting the death of Jumbo. The Telegraph over its report of the death and history of the famous elephant, displays large headlines reading "Sad End of Jumbo, Killed by a Collision with a Railroad Train."

### *His Affection for Alice*

When the news spread that Jumbo had been killed there was a universal expression of regret. Many a situation was yielded up the ghost, it is fairly safe to say, without awakening a tithe of the interest and sorrow attending the taking of the huge elephant which Barnum carried away from the people of England. Across the water he was a household word, and his affections for his mate, Alice, was for many years a favourite theme with writers. The introduction of the young Londoners into the affairs of life was hardly deemed complete until he had ridden upon the back of Jumbo. He was not precisely the lion of the Zoo, but he was *the* elephant par excellence, and there is none to take his place in docility and brightness of intellect. The loss to Barnum is great, but greater still is the affliction to the young children here, who had begun to extend to their huge pet much of the affection which was his happy lot in England.

### **SKINNING JUMBO**

Precisely at one o'clock Prof. Ward with his two assistants had a corps of city butchers, headed by Pete Peters and John McCollum, stood around the departed Jumbo to take off his skin and dissect out his bones. The dead monster drew crowds to the last, and there were hundreds on the grounds to view the dead giant. It was supposed that exhibition would be free, but this was not the case. Some enterprising individual had secured the privilege of collection an admission free. Policemen were placed at suitable points to keep out the crowd, except at the field gate, where admittance was gained by paying 5 cents. But notwithstanding the cordon of guards, several hundreds of children, who played truant for the day, managed to get within the enclosure without payment.

Jumbo still lay on the side of the bank in an admirable position to be advantageously skinned. Two of his legs were so placed that they had him on the incline. The taxidermists and butchers cut down the back and belly and took off half of the skin, then they unjointed the two legs which held him to the bank after which he was rolled over without difficulty and that part of the task was accomplished. The work of dissecting the huge bones was more difficult and it required all of the ingenuity of Prof. Ward to devise means to handle the immense limbs and masses of muscle while this was being accomplished. In accordance with the order of Dr. Tweedale about four cords of wood were procured and the funeral pyre built. As we go to press the body of the great Jumbo lies on this alter and is slowly being reduced dust to dust, ashes to ashes. No other creature, human or brute ever had such a well attended funeral and no other will be remembered as long in the annals of the city.

## Notes

Jumbo died on British soil.

Memorial tablets of Jumbo are now on sale at TIMES office. Price 5c.

Barnum intended making an European tour next season, but without Jumbo his show will be like Hamlet with the ghost left out.

The loss of Jumbo will be felt keenly by W.W. Cole, the well-known circus owner, who only a few weeks ago bought a one-third interest in the brute for some rumor saith, \$60,000.

Had Jumbo not been killed, he might have lived a hundred years or more. Mr. Gray states that some authorities claim that an elephant lives four or five hundred years; others two or three hundred; and the most credible one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty years.

Those who saw the collision aver that when Jumbo was struck and fell, he swung his trunk, which was lying across the rails of the main line, around to save it from being run over. As an elephant's sense of feeling centres in his trunk this explains his solicitude for its safety.

The clown elephant Tom Thumb will be shipped at once to the headquarters of the show in Bridgeport, Con. in order that it may be provided with treatment for its broken leg.

St. Thomas appears to be a bad tow for shows this season. Buffalo Bill's company, when here, lost one of its members by death – the little papoose Pe-ton-kip, and on Tuesday that mountain of flesh, the world renowned Jumbo, of Barnum's circus, collided with a freight train with results fatal to the elephant.

While classed among African elephants, and it is almost certain that he came from Africa when young, many scientific men were of the opinion that Jumbo was a distinct species of beast. His most striking peculiarity was the shape of his back. Ordinary elephants are bow backed, the spinal column describing about such a curve as would be the outside of an egg, cut lengthways, while Jumbo was distinctly hollow backed, though the hollow was not quite so curved as would be the inverted "bow" of an ordinary elephant. There is said to be some peculiarity in his toes also, which stamps him as being quite different from other elephants.

## From Friday's Daily Times

The work of dissecting the carcass of Jumbo is still in progress, and already a large portion of the flesh has been burned. Prof. Ward and his assistants have been at work incessantly since yesterday carving out the bones of the monster and cremating the flesh, and expect to have the job completed some time to-night. The work was prosecuted with vigour all night long in order to have it completed before the carcass became "high" enough to drive the workmen away.

The hundred odd people who constantly surround the huge beast yesterday evening grew hungry and smacked their lips longingly as they snuffed the delicious aroma that floated in the atmosphere around the funeral pyre. Scores of them planked down the five cent pieces to get near the big mountain of flesh, whose remnants sent forth the delicious aroma. It was the most tremendous roast of the season. Huge chunks of wood were piled high and then set on fire and the slices of meat were thrown on the top thereof. The noise of the butchers' cleavers as they scraped the bones of the defunct giant made the air ring with melody, while Prof. Ward carved juicy slices from the blood-

dripping flanks and piled them upon the funeral pyre. One enterprising individual personally cooked one of the juicy slices upon the fire while the coals were at a white heat and after it had been roasted partook of a feast of elephant steak. The manner in which he got inside of the juicy slice imbedded in sweet gravy was a wonder to the onlookers, and he averred that he relished the choice morsel as only an epicure could. To-day the attendance has not been so large, the flesh having begun to rot, and the delicious aroma of last evening has given place to a stench sufficient to knock down a horse.

The immense hide of Jumbo, weighing 1,600 pounds, is now in pickle at Griffins pork factory, nearly a ton of salt and 100 pounds of elm being required to cure the hide. It will be shipped in vats with the brine to Rochester either this evening or tomorrow.

A correspondent suggests that a movement be started by the council to erect a monument and life-sized statue of Jumbo near the place where he fell. The writer expresses the belief that thousands of dollars could be raised by subscription both on this continent and in England, for the purpose and the result would be the making of St. Thomas famous for all time to come.

Big and tall as Jumbo was, he had not attained to his full height and was expected to grow for three or four years to come. He had grown considerably since his arrival in this country. His food consisted of grain, bran, hay, vegetables, such as carrots or beet roots, etc. and of these articles he consumed between 500 and 600 pounds per day. He drank about three barrels of water a day. In addition to his great size there were several peculiar physical features about Jumbo which excited much curiosity among naturalists, and led some eminent scientists to express the opinion that he was not an elephant at all, but that he was allied to the old and now extinct mastodon species. In his back there was a deep hollow, where in other elephants there was a large convex curve and his head was curved in a marked manner where other elephants are hollow. His knees, too, are not in the same place as are those of other elephants. They are much nearer his thigh, making the upper part of his leg unusually short and the under part unusually long.

Our New York correspondent on Wednesday had a long and very interesting interview with Mr. Barnum concerning the monster elephant and its much lamented death, from which the following is taken:

“How many children have seen Jumbo, Mr. Barnum?”

“About 10,000,000 in this country and as many more in England.”

“Were these stories true about the queen and Prince of Wales being so loth to have Jumbo leave London?”

“Absolutely so. We bought Jumbo for \$10,000 from the directors of the Zoological Gardens in London who sold him only because they were afraid of him. He had developed a tendency to ugly fits and was in danger of sacrificing life. For seventeen years the English children had petted him in the Zoological Gardens, but it seemed necessary to part with him. We heard of the situation, offered \$10,000 and the animal was ours. But as soon as the news of his being sold was announced all England was protesting. I assure you that the stories published at the time regarding the unwillingness of the royal family to part with Jumbo were literally true. They were not fiction, but fact. The Prince of Wales went to the Zoological Gardens and tried to stop the sale. The queen herself interposed with the same intentions. All London was in a ferment. I got word from my agent saying that Jumbo could not be got out of the gardens, that he persisted in lying down, and that all efforts to make him move were unavailing. I cabled him “Let Jumbo lie.” It was the best advertisement for me. I should have been willing

to let him to let him lie a month. Both England and the United States were on the tiptoe of expectation. Finally, I received an offer of half the proceeds if I would let Jumbo stay and be exhibited at so much a head. Of course I declined, but I was in no hurry to have him leave."

"So the English really wanted to keep Jumbo?"

"The excitement and indignation at his departure was wonderful. On all sides, the directors of the Zoological Gardens were asked why they allowed the children's pet to leave? The answer was that he was dangerous, that he might destroy life at any moment, did not satisfy anybody. Mr. Ruskin wrote, in characteristically vigorous words: "England is not in the habit of parting with her pets. If stone walls and chains are necessary to confine Jumbo, England has the stone and iron, and need to go to America for them." Mister Lowell in a public address, announced that at present he believed the relations between England and American were undisturbed, except in connection with Jumbo."

"How old was Jumbo?"

"About 25 years."

"Was he remarkable in youth?"

"By no means. In infancy he was captured by a party of Arabs in Africa, and sold to the Jardin des Plantes in Paris. When three years of age, the Zoological Gardens in London came in possession of him by exchanging other animals in the ordinary course of business. Nobody considered him a wonderful beast at all. But when seven years of age, he began to grow fast."

"Was he the largest elephant in the world?"

"He was the largest elephant known to history. No other even came within reach of him."

"What was his food?"

"About 400 pounds of hay, one barrel of potatoes and one bushel of onions daily."

"Was he ever sick?"

"Never. Elephants generally are in good health, although sometimes we have known them to suffer from chills. But Jumbo never had a chill."

"How did he compare intellectually with smaller elephants?"

"We never tried to teach him anything, except to carry children on his back. But this he had been accustomed to for many years."

"Were the children in danger when riding on his back around the ring?"

"Not in the slightest."

"Yet he was sometimes unmanageable?"

"Not when Scott his English keeper, was with him. He had known Scott since he was three years old and was very fond of him. Our other man thought at first that they could manage Jumbo, but they had to give it up."

"What discipline did he require?"

"Scott ruled him by kindness. Our American trainers think that the prod is necessary, but Scott says not. He declares he never used a prod on Jumbo and never governed him except by kindness. It was wonderful how fond Jumbo was of him. When travelling through the country we transported Jumbo by a special car just large enough to go through the tunnel. Scott slept in it with Jumbo. He is a great beer drinker, and, at night, before going to bed, he had a quart of beer placed in the car and after drinking half himself, gave Jumbo the other half. Jumbo always took it. One night Scott did not get his beer, and went to sleep without it. Presently Jumbo leaned over him, put his trunk around him, lifted him out of

bed and deposited him on the floor. Scott took it as reminder that he hadn't received his beer. Dome beer was brought and Jumbo was quieted."

"What did you give him to drink?"

"Water only."

"No stimulants?"

"None at all. When he was first landed, some reporters tried him with whiskey and he drank a bottle. This led to the report that "Mr. Barnum is a teetotalter, but his elephant is a drunkard." But no such amount of whiskey ever produced any effect on Jumbo."

"What were Jumbo's moral traits?"

"They are all comprised in his love for children."

"Was he afraid of anything?"

"Of nothing but a mouse, a cat or a rat. I have heard tremendous howling when a cat ran near him. The sight of a rat would make him shiver."

"Are all elephants so?"

"All."

"Does anything else frighten them?"

"They start at a railroad whistle."

Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 18. – General Manager Hickson of the Grand Trunk railway states that he cannot see how the railway company can be held responsible for the death of Jumbo. The report sent to him shows that he circus men had cut down fences and were driving Jumbo across the track when he was killed. Had they taken the trouble to go around a short distance by the regular crossing the signal men would have warned them of the approaching train and the accident would have been avoided.

### **From Saturday's Daily Times**

The work of dissecting out the bones of Jumbo from his huge carcass was completed last evening and the bones and hide were shipped to-day to Prof. Ward's Natural Science Museum at Rochester, N.Y. The last of the flesh was consigned to the flames this morning. A number of coins, stones, and nails were found in the stomach of the mammoth beast which are being proudly shown around to-day by the lucky finders. Dr. Tweedale personally examined the skull of the defunct animal and states that the blow he received from the locomotive fractured his skull, which was broken in several pieces, the tusks also being broken off. This was the only wound on the unfortunate brute sufficient to cause death.

The car in which the bones were shipped is labelled, "In this car are the mortal remains of the immortal Jumbo. They go to Rochester, N.Y. there to be prepared and mounted at Ward's natural science establishment."

Prof. Henry A. Ward and his assistants left for Rochester to-day. As soon as the hid arrives it will be subjected to an arsenical bath to protect it from the ravages of moths and the invasion of insects. Most people have an idea that the bones will be boiled to clear them of the flesh adhering to them. Such is not the case however. They will be placed in huge vats where they will soak from fifteen to 20 months in pure water, which is run off every few days and the meat which has become loosened from the bones, removed. Then the vat will be refilled. The process will be continued until the bones are entirely

free of flesh when they will be bleached on lattice work trays prepared for the purpose. Subsequently these individual bones will be prepared, wired together and mounted on a handsome walnut pedestal as a perfect skeleton.

Possibly two years will elapse before it is ready to hand over to the Smithsonian Institute. Prof. Ward will meet P.T. Barnum at Buffalo this evening.

### *Scott, The Keeper*

Matthew Scott, Jumbo's keeper, during the visit to Barnum's circus two years ago, became well acquainted with the family of Inspector Burrage, adjoining whose residence the exhibition was held. When he arrived in the city with the kingly beast to attend the present exhibition, he again visited Mr. Burrage's and was invited to stop with them during his stay in the city. Mr. Burrage states that Scotty was terribly upset on account of Jumbo's death and for a couple of days after appeared to be like one who had partially lost his senses and like Rachel of old he refused to be comforted. Before he departed last evening for Buffalo, to meet Mr. Barnum, Mrs. Burrage procured crape which was suitably fixed on his hat, and his green necktie was replaced by a black one. The appearance of Scotty when he stepped on the train last night, dressed in deep mourning, his countenance sad and his step tottering, was pitiful to behold.

### *Everything Cleared Away*

Inspector Burrage reported to Dr. Tweedale, Medical Health officer that Jumbo had been properly cremated and every particle of the huge carcass reduced to ashes. It took six cords of wood to accomplish it.

### *Jumbo Not Insured*

A report has been circulated in the city that Jumbo was insured. Mr. Barnum was asked the question the other day and replied, "He was not; I don't insure my animals when they are travelling; I hold the company that is transporting them liable. When they are in winter quarters at Bridgeport I have them insured. I held \$75,000 in policies on animals last year."

IN MEMORY OF

# JUMBO

KING OF THE ELEPHANTS.

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Born in Africa

**IN 1861,**

**DIED AT St. THOMAS**

**Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1885,**

**AGED 24 YEARS.**

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THE PET OF THOUSANDS  
AND FRIEND OF ALL.

*The pillar of a people's hope.  
The centre of a world's  
desire.*

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If the tombs secrets may not  
be confessed,  
The nature of thy private life  
unfold,  
A heart has throbb'd neath  
that leathern breast,  
And tears adown that dusky  
cheek have rolled;  
Have children climbed upon  
that back, and kissed that  
face?  
What was thy name, and  
station, age and race?

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*"Hath born his faculties so  
meek, hath been so mad  
in his great office, that his  
virtues will plead like  
angels, trumpet-tongued  
against the deep  
damnation of history."*

### *The Great Elephant's Last Will and Testament Made Over a Year Ago*

Jumbo's skeleton goes to the National Museum at Washington through arrangements made with Barnum something over a year ago. Then Jumbo's will was made for him and his skin and bones were bequeathed to different institutions. The National Museum was given the choice of skeleton or skin, and chooses the skeleton of course. Jumbo's early demise was not foreseen that day. There was a probability of his living a hundred years or more. If it had not been for the mortgage which the National Museum had upon his bones it is thought that there would have been a great struggle for the possession of the skeleton. The skeleton of a male African elephant of his size is esteemed a great prize not only in a popular sense but scientifically. The bones fractured can be repaired. Osteologists would much rather have to repair fractured bones of an elephant than of a dog or smaller animal as stated elsewhere it will probably be two years before Jumbo's skeleton will take its place in the museum. After the bones are received they will be put to soak and it will require several months before the processes of maceration and bleaching are complete. Cold weather is unfavourable to these processes. Another huge elephant's skeleton is now undergoing these processes. This is the skeleton of Barnum's Asiatic elephant Albert, which was shot and killed in New Hampshire last July after he had killed one of his attendants. When it was decided to kill the elephant the officers of the museum were notified. They sent an expedition to the spot and received the bones. As these bones have had the advantage of soaking in warm weather they will soon be ready for articulation and will probably make their appearance in the museum this winter. Jumbo and Albert, two males of distinct species, will make a very valuable pair. The hide will be placed in Tuft's museum, ten miles from Boston. This museum was been fitted up by Prof. Wade with Barnum relics at the request of the great showman.

Prof. Ward is one of the most celebrated naturalists and scientists in the world. His establishment in Rochester consists of ten large two-story buildings, besides sheds and yards, devoted to receiving, preparing and shipping specimens, and is the most numerously stocked on the continent. Eighteen men are constantly employed as taxidermists, osteologists and moulders. Many of these are foreigners – Belgians, Frenchmen, and Englishmen. Among the specimens which Prof. Ward has in his museum are the great Dinorinus, or fossil bird of New Zealand, with leg bones larger than ox; and the Great Siberian Mammoth, the largest and stateliest animal of modern times, being 16-feet high and 27 feet in length, so that Jumbo will be in appropriate company.

Prof. Ward has been an enthusiast in this study all his life. He is a member of several of the most famous societies in Europe and America, and has travelled through every part of Europe and America, and extensively in Asia and Africa. He has a collector now in India, another in South America and a third in Australia, and his establishment is a regular Noah's Ark, with its multitudinous animals of every kind and species with walk, fly, swim or crawl, from the tropics to the poles.

It seems almost certain that the proposed monument to Jumbo, suggested by the TIMES, will be erected here. Numerous citizens have signified their intention to contribute to the fund and once the initiative is started subscriptions will blow in by hundreds and thousands from all parts of the world.