

Tiny Broadwick



Née Georgia Ann Thompson, the diminutive Tiny Broadwick traveled with a carnival in the early 1900s as a daredevil. Billed as "The Doll Girl," dressed in a skirt and ruffled bloomers, she jumped out of hot air balloons and descended by parachute. On June 21, 1913, during Glenn L. Martin's parachute experiments, Broadwick became the first American woman to make a jump from

an airplane (above). On September 13, 1914, she performed the first parachute demonstration for the US Army—and possibly the first free-fall jump when she cut a tangled static line that day. When asked if she ever had a reserve chute, she said "Oh, yes, I always had a reserve chute in the hangar in case the one I was using got wet or torn."

North Carolina Museum of History