# **Origin of Names of Towns in Arkansas**

# **Brinkley:**

Robert Campbell Brinkley, for whom the eastern Arkansas city is named, became the president of the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad after the Civil War, and immediately initiated a program to rehabilitate and complete the whole line from the Mississippi to the Arkansas River. Most of what had existed prior to the war had deteriorated and the line had to be almost totally rebuilt. While in Great Britain to negotiate the purchase of iron to make rails, Brinkley obtained the backing of George Peabody, a London financier. In appreciation, Brinkley later had a hotel in Memphis named in Peabody's honor. (Source 1)

(Source 2:Leanne Cragun's Family History) Robert Campbell Brinkley, son of William Brinkley, b. May 1816 Chatham Co, NC d. 11-28-1878, luka, MS. Graduated Bingham School, NC read law in office of Foster & Fogg, Nashville, TN, admitted to TN Bar. He married (1)Ann Overton, **Davidson Co, TN** (1) Wife: Ann Overton, b. 8-5-1823 near Nashville, TN, daughter of John & Mary **Overton**, d. 1845 **Children:** Hugh Lawson White Brinkley d. 1905 Anne Brinkley married Col. Robert Bogardus Snowden of Nashville (2) Wife: Elizabeth Mhoon b.Oct.11,1828 in N.Carolina, married Oct.24,1853 in Franklin Co., Alabama. Children James Mhoon Brinklev **Bettie Brinkley married C Currier** William J Brinkley, married Laura Little

R.C. Brinkley was at one time Pres. of Memphis & Little Rock Railroad and Brinkley, Arkansas is named for him. Ann Brinkley House, a residence for women in Memphis, TN is named for Ann Overton Brinkley.

James Mhoon Brinkley, son of R.C. & Ann Brinkley married Clara Foote. Children Hugh Montgomery Brinkley b 7-23-1893 Memphis, TN Amiel Brinkley James F Brinkley John Stone Brinkley all 4 served WWI John also served NavyWWII. Hugh M Brinkley, son of James, married Olivia Brevard Langford 4-28-1945 No kids Prominent banker & polo club member in Memphis.

The 1850 census for Memphis, Shelby, TN lists RC Brinkley age 38, Hugh Brinkley age 9, Anna Brinkley age 7, Whit Brinkley age 19, male, JO. Brinkley age 17, John Brinkley age 17, Mary Cox age 40, Robt. Cox age 10.

The 1860 census for Memphis, Shelby, TN lists RC Brinkley age 43, gentleman Elizabeth Brinkley age 31, Hugh Brinkley age 19 listed as born in Alabama, Anne O. Brinkley age 18 born TN, James M Brinkley age 4, Betty Brinkley age 2, Robert Cox age 16, James Dumfries, age 27, gardener born Scotland.

## Early Statehood through Reconstruction

In 1852, the state of Arkansas presented a land grant in the northern part of Monroe County to the Little Rock and Memphis Railroad Company, an enterprise promoted by Robert Campbell Brinkley, a leading resident of Memphis, Tennessee. The community was incorporated in 1872 and named for this early pioneer, who was president of the railroad company, president of Planters Bank of Memphis, and an entrepreneur in westward development.

### Source 3-Grundy Family Tree-

http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/2010458/person/1531404615?pgNum=1

### **Memphis Historic Hotels: The Peabody Hotel:**

The Peabody Hotel is a Mid-South institution, its name considered synonymous with Southern hospitality and Delta style. The 13-story hotel is an excellent example of Italian Renaissance Revival architecture and is Memphis' only historic hotel. The original Peabody was built by Colonel Robert C. Brinkley in 1869. Just prior to its opening, Brinkley received news of the death of his good friend, philanthropist George Peabody. As a sign of respect for Peabody, who endowed George Peabody College in Nashville and contributed much to the disadvantaged South, the new hotel was named The Peabody.

The original hotel was built at the corner of Main and Monroe in downtown Memphis and was considered one of the finest in the South. It had 75 rooms with private baths, a ballroom, saloon and lobby. It cost \$3 to \$4 a day for a room and meals, extra for a fire or gas light.

Colonel Brinkley gave The Peabody to his daughter, Anne Overton Brinkley, as a wedding gift when she married Robert Bogardus Snowden near the end of 1869. For 96 years, the Snowden heirs would be connected directly or indirectly with the affairs of the hotel. Lavish balls were held at The Peabody. It was the place to see and be seen. The original Peabody was host to such notables as Presidents Andrew Johnson and William McKinley and Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee, Nathan Bedford Forrest and Jubal Early. Plantation owners, professional gamblers and movie stars frequented The Peabody. The Peabody continued to enjoy success until it closed in 1923. In 1925, a \$5 million Peabody, designed by architect Walter Ahlschlager, opened at its present downtown Memphis location on Union Avenue. At this point, ownership had passed into the hands of the Memphis Hotel Company, controlled by R. Brinkley Snowden, great-grandson of the original builder.

[1-Source:Historic Railroad Depots of Arkansas 1870-1940 A Historic Context Written and Researched By William D. Baker] [2-

Source:http://www.cragun.com/leanne/getperson.php?personID=I5085&tree=Dalling

(4-Source: Dunrobin Iuka, Miss. 1847—home located at 605 Eastport Street. Served as headquarters for a short period of time during the Civil War for U. S. Army General Grant and General Rosecrans. The Brinkley family has lived in the home continuously since it was constructed and much history and tradition surround this famous old landmark.

