

**Postcard from Minnie Brinkley to Amanda Jackson**

**Geneve, La Rade et le Mont-Blanc**

**July 15, 1937**

HL\_SM\_24-01-Postcard1937-BrinkleyM-Geneve

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For ENGL 618 – Research Methods in English

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

This transcription and its attendant annotations, explanatory material, and bibliography was prepared by students in ENGL 618: Research Methods in English, the required gateway class for the MA in English degree program at Western Carolina University (WCU). The learning outcomes for this class include the following:

1. Conduct appropriate, effective, and ethical scholarship.
  - a. Effectively find and use advanced research tools (handbooks, databases, guides, bibliographies, etc.) appropriate to a subject.
    - i. Students will be able to use a wide variety of such tools and evaluate those tools.
  - b. Find appropriate advanced research (print and electronic scholarship) and apply that research to specific disciplinary questions or issues.
    - i. Students will be able to find a variety of scholarship, evaluate both the appropriateness and rigor of that scholarship, and incorporate that scholarship correctly and effectively.
  - c. Develop accurate bibliographies and reference citations.
    - i. Students will be able to annotate, abstract, and cite materials following standard MLA format.
2. Understand the process by which the texts we use are made available.
  - a. Students will be able to conduct basic editorial work and evaluate the editorial work of others.

All work is presented as submitted by the graduate students. While they take great care with their transcriptions and annotations, errors are possible. As they learn throughout this class, good scholarship requires meticulous research and corroboration by authoritative sources. Our objective is to provide transcriptions and annotations of WCU's Special Collections materials that will be useful to the institution, students, scholars, patrons, and all users of our library's resources. If you wish to submit an emendation or correction for this document, please email Dr. Brian Gastle ([bgastle@wcu.edu](mailto:bgastle@wcu.edu)).

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DOCUMENT

This postcard was sent from Geneva, Switzerland, by Minnie Brinkley to Amanda “Aunt Mandy” Jackson.

Minnie Brinkley was the wife of John Brinkley II, a notorious quack doctor who practiced medicine throughout the 1920s and 1930s and who was most well-known known for implanting goat testicles in men to cure impotence. Minnie Brinkley was often involved in John Brinkley’s businesses and traveled with him. She was also ultimately indicted along with her husband for mail fraud, though the case was dismissed due to John Brinkley’s death (Lee, Alton).

Amanda Jackson was a neighbor to young John Brinkley and often watched him growing up. She became a close family friend who both Minnie and John Brinkley wrote often. She lived in East LaPort, NC, close to modern day Sylva in Jackson County NC, until her death in 1945 (Lee, Alton).

In July 1937, when this letter was sent, the Brinkley’s were in the midst of a four-month tour of Europe. For reference, the Brinkleys were in Luxembourg on July 8, Geneva on July 15, and France on July 24.

In 1937, the Brinkleys were arguably reaching the height of their wealth. John Brinkley was considered a renowned doctor, owned a mansion in Del Rio, Texas, and ran a thriving radio station. Just a year later, John Brinkley began his downfall by suing for libel Morris Fishbein, a journalist who regularly called him a “quack” and “charlatan.” John Brinkley lost this lawsuit, meaning that he could legally be called a quack doctor. He faced numerous malpractice lawsuits soon after, which claimed over three million dollars in damages. He declared bankruptcy in 1941 and died in 1942 of heart failure (Lee, Alton). Minnie Brinkley remained a staunch supporter for her husband until her death in 1980 (“Minerva Telitha “Minnie” Jones Brinkley).

## EDITORIAL STATEMENT

This transcription is a diplomatic edition, meaning that it has been transcribed as closely to the original text as possible (“Diplomatic Edition”).

In this transcription, the layout and length of sentences and the spacing of headers and signatures reflect the structure of the primary document. Any spelling or grammatical irregularities have been preserved. Manuscript page numbers have been noted at the top of each transcription page with square brackets.

This postcard is 5.75x3.5 inches. The front photo is semi-glossy while the back of the postcard is matt paper. The text is written in ink and there is writing on both the front and back of the postcard.

Please see the appendix for a photo of this postcard.

# TRANSCRIPTION

[MS Front/Image]

Ice and Snow

Vegetation like our Smokies<sup>1</sup>

6024 Geneve. La Rade et le Mont-Blanc<sup>2</sup>

[MS Back/Address]

This is about the  
prettiest place  
we have been.  
Hope you are well.

Mrs. Amanda Jackson  
East La Port  
N.C.  
U.S.A.

Love

Jn Brinkley MD

Geneva July 15 – 37

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<sup>1</sup> These comments are written next to the snow-capped mountains and the bare mountains on the image, clearly in an attempt to compare the Alps pictured on the postcard to the mountains of Jackson's home in the Great Smokey Mountains. The Great Smokie Mountains, often shortened to the Smokies, is a subrange of the Appalachian Mountains that sits on the boarder of Tennessee and North Carolina.

<sup>2</sup> Geneva. The Harbor and Mont Blanc.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Lee, R. Alton. *The Bizarre Careers of John R. Brinkley*, University Press of Kentucky, 2002. *JSTOR*, <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv2nwq9hd.12>. Accessed 23 Nov. 2025.

This biography provided a wealth of information about the life of John Brinkley.

# APPENDIX A

FRONT



BACK

