

# Great Astronomers: John Brinkley



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★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

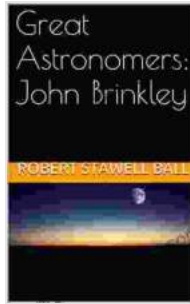
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John Brinkley (1764-1835) was an Irish astronomer who made significant contributions to the fields of astronomy, geodesy, and navigation. He is best known for his work in determining the longitude of Dublin and for his observations of double stars.

## **Early Life and Education**

John Brinkley was born in Cappagh, County Tyrone, Ireland, on September 13, 1764. He was the son of a farmer and was educated at Trinity College, Dublin. After graduating from Trinity College, Brinkley worked as a tutor and lecturer in mathematics and astronomy.

## **Astronomical Work**

In 1792, Brinkley was appointed Andrews Professor of Astronomy at Trinity College, Dublin. He immediately began a program of astronomical observations, which he continued for the rest of his life. Brinkley's most important work was in determining the longitude of Dublin. In 1808, he published his results in a paper entitled "An Account of the Trigonometrical Survey of Ireland." This paper was a major contribution to geodesy and navigation, and it earned Brinkley the Copley Medal of the Royal Society of London.

Brinkley also made significant contributions to the study of double stars. He was the first astronomer to observe the relative positions of the two stars in the double star system Castor. He also made observations of the double star system Ursa Majoris, which led him to believe that the two stars were orbiting each other.

## **Other Work**

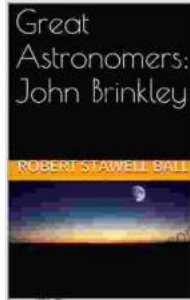
In addition to his astronomical work, Brinkley was also a mathematician and a surveyor. He published several mathematical papers, and he also worked on the survey of Ireland. Brinkley was a member of the Royal Irish Academy and the Royal Society of London. He was also a Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin.

## **Legacy**

John Brinkley was one of the most important astronomers of his time. His work on the longitude of Dublin and on double stars was groundbreaking, and it earned him the respect of astronomers around the world. Brinkley was also a gifted teacher, and he inspired many of his students to pursue careers in astronomy.

Brinkley's legacy continues to this day. The crater Brinkley on the Moon is named in his honor, and the John Brinkley Observatory at Trinity College, Dublin, is one of the leading astronomical observatories in Ireland.

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