

Methodist University Community Oral History Project  
Methodist University  
Fayetteville, NC

**Todd Francis Barrett**

Interview Conducted by  
Travis W. Jones  
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Clayton, N.C.

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Descriptive Table of Contents:

[Sum up biographical details/answers to questions. Make sure to note places and dates when they arose. Think about what future researches might be interested in. Time-stamp at least one half of them]

0:19 - birthdate is 5/8/1968.

0:29 – Transplant from the Boston, Massachusetts area. Moved to Raleigh N.C. in 1999. Family man, second wife, and kids.

1:33 previous presidential administration a regime that stomped on the Constitution. The “pen and the phone thing”—Obama’s use of executive orders to bypass Congress—“did not sit well” with him.

2:29 – Trump being a successful businessman attracted him to his political idea, specifically on illegal immigration that is draining the system.

3:37 – Admires Trump’s politically incorrect statements about President Obama, feels that they are warranted as Washington has created a country of “snowflakes.”

5:44 – Trumps non-politically correct language is good when it calls illegals illegals, instead of undocumented immigrants, but Barrett distances himself from the so-called negative comments about women.

7:05 The problem with Trump’s comments is that they get “hype”, and his remarks are exploited to try and get them taken out of proportion.

7:59 – Illegal immigrants using free health care have been main source of rising health care costs. Welfare is being paid for by the middle class.

9:23 – If you want to come to come to America, come with a visa, a passport.

10:09 – when discussing surveillance of Islam, Barrett invokes the poisoned M&M’s idea: there is bound to be one bad one in the bowl, and it’s not worth the risk to let them all off because there is a threat there.

11:46 – Barrett could never trust another Clinton

13:07 – he scans different media sources, including internet, newspapers, and word of mouth to try and prove or disprove information. He encounters a great deal of fake news.

14:02 – he presented his children with facts, in order to allow them to develop their own opinions.

16:19 – Barrett plants seeds in people’s minds to get them to think for themselves

17:11 – He doesn’t so much support Trump the man, but the ideals that he stands for

18:47 – America was great when it was in full swing, when only dad worked, when home ownership was widespread, and when it had a functional middle class.

Interview of

**TODD FRANCIS BARETT**

Interviewed by

**TRAVIS W. JONES**

0:01

**JONES:** Alright. My name is Travis Jones. Today's date is 31 March 2017. I'm in Clayton, North Carolina, and today I am with Todd. How you doing today Todd?

0:13

**BARRETT:** Good, very good.

0:15

**JONES:** And if you would please, just say your name, and date of birth for historical preference, please.

0:19

**BARRETT:** My name is Todd Francis Barret. And my birthdate is 5/8/1968.

0:24

**JONES:** And if you could, could you just tell me a little bit about yourself?

0:29

**BARRETT:** I'm a transplant to the south. From Boston, Massachusetts, about five miles north, a town called Saugus. Middle-class growing up. Played in a rock 'n' roll band for about thirteen years. My childhood: graduated high school, went to trade school after high school—have my electrical license. Moved to Raleigh, North Carolina in 1999, and I am currently an electrical engineer—went back to school. And, family man, married, two kids—got remarried, and now I have a stepson, and that's kinda of where I'm at.

1:16

**JONES:** Alright, so you know that I talked to you today-- talked to you previous to today to set up a conversation about your support for Trump.

1:25

**BARRETT:** Yes sir.

1:26

**JONES:** So, can you tell me a little bit about why you supported Trump during his campaign?

1:33

**BARRETT:** It was the ideas and the ideals that he had that meshed with my beliefs in what this country actually should be. Through the previous administration of eight years, my perception of that regime was basically stomping on the Constitution, and was more of a dictatorship more so than a democracy leadership with a presidential head. Then pen and the phone thing did not sit well. His executive order with no resistance in the House nor Senate did not sit well. [In 2014, when his economic agenda met Congressional resistance, President Barack Obama said he planned to promote economic recovery by

other means, saying “I’ve got a pen, and I’ve got a phone.”] That was part of my major movement towards Mr. Trump.

2:20

**JONES:** So did you feel more of a connection to Trump, or was it just more that you just really didn’t like President Obama?

2:29

**BARRETT:** That’s kind of a two-part answer. Mr. Trump himself being as successful as he is, and running his business like a businessman and not a politician, was what actually drew me to Mr. Trump. Again: his ideals of bringing America, making it great again, making America America’s—not a land of free immigration, which puts a total drain on our system with no boundaries, is what made me believe in his politics.

3:05

**JONES:** Alright, so there’s a couple things I want to talk to you about.

3:07

**BARRETT:** That’s fine.

3:08

**JONES:** Alright, so, was Trump being critical of Obama something that you liked? I mean, was [it] the fact that you say he is a businessman, so he was able to look at President Obama and be critical of his policies. So is this something that—you said that you—that maybe drew you to support him?

3:35

**BARRETT:** Absolutely.

3:36

**JONES:** And how does that affect you?

3:37

**BARRETT:** It was absolutely part of it. The things that he said about President Obama were things that were politically incorrect. Which I completely admire, because no one in Washington has the gall, or the male appendage, to do so. I think it was extremely, extremely warranted. I think we have become a country of snowflakes. And you know, let the government protect us, and, you know, we'll just blindly go where our leader tells us. And what was the second part of that?

4:14

**JONES:** How is that this—how was it going to affect you, these things that—being critical of Obama?

4:24

**BARRETT:** It formed a sense amongst the people that we don't have to keep quiet. We can voice our opinions, whether they are right, wrong, or indifferent. We can voice our opinions based on our perceptions without feeling any repercussions. And if there are repercussions, that's fine, that's what this country is all about.

4:48

**JONES:** Sweet. So this “pen and the phone” thing. Is this President Obama you’re referring to?

4:54

**BARRETT:** Yes, sir.

4:55

**JONES:** So, can you tell me a little more about that?

4:56

**BARRETT:** He has had difficulties, I guess you could say, with the Republican-controlled House, and Senate. And his forcefulness to get things passed his way was due to a threat called “I have a pen and a phone.” I make a phone call and sign it, and it’ll get through regardless. Talking about his executive orders, and his powers.

5:29

**JONES:** Ok, so the “not P.C. [Politically Correct].” I understand what you are saying, but what was it specifically that he said that you agree with? Can you recall something? Or is just the fact—the things he was saying?

5:44

**BARRETT:** There were so many things, you can’t just—I can’t put my finger on just one, but things that he would say. Now I’m not talking about anything that has to do with the negative, so-called negative comments towards women. Or the Rosie O’Donnell thing, which I think was completely warranted. [Trump had a long-running media feud with comedian Rosie O’Donnell.] Just the type of things that

come out of his mouth, were not so-called what you would hear out of a politician, you know, mainstream politicians. You know he called illegals, illegals. He called terrorists, terrorists. And at the time media was calling them undocumented immigrants, which I think is a bunch of B.S., because illegal is illegal. A terrorist is a terrorist. They're, you know, they're not Jihad extremists, or Islamic extremists, or whatever the politically-correct left was calling them at that time.

6:46

**JONES:** Right, so that leads me to this. Do you feel that there is something that President Trump, because you kind of touched on it there—

6:54

**BARRETT:** Mm-hmm.

6:55

**JONES:** —that he crossed the line, something that maybe affects you personally, that he said, tweeted, posted, that was too much?

7:05

**BARRETT:** No, I think when you are a Trump supporter, and you've followed Trump for the past, you know, twenty-five to thirty years of your life, and you know what kind of person he is, you know that when something comes out of his mouth, whether you take it with a grain of salt or you take it as face value. And I think a lot of the problems, well, not a lot of the problems, a lot of the hype that, you know, that went on with the government-controlled media, was that they were blowing it out of proportion to

try to get people's perception of what he was saying to be an over-the-top, exaggerated, just blown out of proportion, negatives, for lack of a better term.

7:53

**JONES:** So how do you see President Trump making America great again for you and your family?

7:59

**BARRETT:** For me, number one is limiting illegals in this country. Every time I go to a hospital, the place is plentiful with illegal immigrants that don't pay a dime to get medical treatment. My rates have gone up over 135% in the past three years. And a lot of it is due to that. If you're not supposed to be here and you want medical assistance, you better come out with the cash out of your pocket. Don't pick my pocket, because you're here illegally. You know, I stand behind people who are in line at the grocery store getting steaks, lobster tails, premium beers, and they whip out an EBT card [Electronic Benefits Transfer card, which offers access to welfare payments]. Meanwhile the card come out of a Louis Vuitton bag and they jump in their friggin' [Cadillac] Escalade. I'm paying for that. Maybe not directly, [but] in a roundabout way, through my taxes, or through my insurance—inflated premiums—the prices that I pay for anything that has to do with government assistance. I'm sick of it. I want that money back in my pocket, so I can make my America great again. So I can prosper, and not have to be part of the supporting middle class of this whole entire country

9:12

**JONES:** So, illegals, immigration, you support his policy. How do you feel about the travel ban he put into place? [Soon after taking office, Trump's administration put in place a hold or ban on immigration

from several predominantly Muslim countries. At the time of this interview, the ban and its successor were still being challenged in court.]

9:19

**BARRETT:** I think it was a start.

9:22

**JONES:** So you see that—.

9:23

**BARRETT:** I see that as a positive. I see it as a stepping stone to getting this—to getting the laws back in place, working as they should. As if you come to this country, you need to either have a visa, a passport, come here to take the classes to become an American citizen, you know, so on and so forth. We have laws in the books that prevent you from being an illegal immigrant. Well, use them so you're not an illegal immigrant.

...

10:24

**JONES:** So do you see that coming into play? Let's put it this way. He made a big speech about the wall, and I don't know if it was a figure head, a motivation to a campaigning probe or act. How do you feel about the wall?

10:45

**BARRETT:** I fully support it.

10:47

**JONES:** Do you think it will make a difference for you?

10:49

**BARRETT:** Yes. Yes, and the reason that I do is because I walk around a lot of places of business, and there is a lot of undocumented, well, illegal immigrants that are working jobs that people that are on welfare and food stamps could be working. And I think it's very unfair for a business to be able to pay someone under the table, you know five, six, seven dollars an hour, instead of actually getting someone who's going to pay taxes and paying them fifteen dollars an hour, or ten dollars an hour, or whatever the case may be, you know, to help them prosper and seek the American dream.

11:23

**JONES:** So coming back to the campaign. Did the fact that the Clinton campaign was maybe more open, lenient on immigration, and travel bans with the refugees and what not—did that effect your decision to support Trump? Or was it that just that you disliked Hilary Clinton so much?

11:46

**BARRETT:** Both. Absolutely both. There is no way I could ever trust another Clinton. I don't care whether it's Bill, Hillary, Chelsea, or any other offspring that come out of the Clinton family.

12:01

**JONES:** Can you tell me something about that?

12:04

**BARRETT:** I've watched many documentaries. Let me just say first off I don't trust the media. I don't care whether is: CNN, MSNBC, FOX news, the public service NPN PNP or whatever the heck it is. [Probably Barrett is referring to National Public Radio.] I don't trust any of them. I'm going to find out for myself, from multi-sources and see which ones mesh. What was very interesting, was a couple of documentaries on following "Clinton Cash." [This is the name of a 2015 documentary directed by Peter Schweizer]. The deals that they have made overseas, and how they have gotten rich off of it. The foreign entities that pay the Clintons hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars for speaking engagements. Where that money is supposed to go towards, you know, helping Kenyans, or helping Nigerians, and things of that nature, and they don't ever see a dime of it. They're just, very, very untrustworthy people, and there is no way I would be able to vote for someone like that.