

Methodist University Community Oral History Project  
Methodist University  
Fayetteville, NC

**Katrina C. Gentry and Margaret**

Interview Conducted by  
Carl Dyke  
November 2, 2020  
Fayetteville, NC

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Descriptive Table of Contents:

- 0:30 -Gentry identifies as conservative; has always voted Republican  
-has worked for the United States Postal Service (USPS) for thirty-one years; despite being a union member, has voted Republican
- 0:51 -lists a number of political identifiers: “pro-life, pro-God, pro-country”; Gentry has, according to Margaret, “an arsenal of guns”  
-has always wanted to come to a Trump rally, but Trump has not visited strongly-Democratic Virginia much lately
- 1:53 -Gentry voices displeasure at how people who live in northern Virginia get to determine the political destinies of rural Virginians  
-the media and “social media” have both treated Trump unfairly
- 2:52 -Trump’s accomplishments: building her 401K retirement account; producing jobs; ending wars in the Middle East; building a wall on the Mexican border; “getting three conservative judges”; Margaret adds his handling of the COVID-19/coronavirus pandemic  
-Gentry’s media diet: Rush Limbaugh
- 3:57 -Gentry perceives America as divided, perceives that her political opponents don’t have “anything in common with her  
-“We want to make America great; and they want to tear America apart and start it all over again with their leftist ideas.” Democrats respond to different ideas with violence
- 5:03 -Democrats “don’t believe in the Constitution”  
-perceives that Democrats will enact socialism via letting in illegal immigrants, raising taxes, ending conservative talk radio
- 6:05 -Democrats will also try to change the rules: making Puerto Rico and D.C. states, ending the filibuster  
-Gentry and Margaret both expect Trump will “make [China] pay . . . for what they’ve done to this country.”
- 7:29 -Gentry expects that Biden will attempt to take Americans’ guns away and tell them they can’t go to church  
-Margaret hopes Republicans will become a “working-class party,” and a home to minorities
- 9:52 -Margaret thinks black Americans were “used” by the Democratic Party  
-Margaret refuses to live in a socialist country; compares the prospect of a Biden victory to the arrival of the Third Reich in Austria (with reference to *The Sound of Music*)
- 11:13 -Biden, Margaret feels, is a Trojan Horse sent to the White House by Barack Obama, in hopes of giving the Presidency to Kamala Harris

Interview of

**KATRINA C. GENTRY and MARGARET**

Interviewed by

**CARL DYKE**

0:02

**DYKE:** Okay, this is Carl Dyke, Methodist University Department of History, and I'm here with:

0:07

**GENTRY:** Katrina Gentry.

0:08

**DYKE:** Katrina Gentry. Hi, Miss Gentry. Good to meet you.

0:12

**GENTRY:** You, too.

0:14

**DYKE:** And we are in line to get on the bus for the President Trump rally, Fayetteville airport, November 2, 2020

0:24

**GENTRY:** Mm-hmm.

0:25

**DYKE:** Okay, so, do you want to tell us anything about yourself? Just, sort of the—.

0:30

**GENTRY:** I'm a conservative person. I've always voted Republican. Strong—

0:37

**MARGARET (GENTRY'S FRIEND) (interjects):** She worked for USPS her whole life.

0:39

**DYKE:** Oh!

0:39

**GENTRY:** Worked for the United States Postal Service for thirty-one years.

0:42

**MARGARET:** And because of that, thinks she's union and Democrats.

0:43

**GENTRY:** I was a union member, but I always voted Republican anyway, even though they told me not to.

0:45

**MARGARET:** We discussed that in the car.

0:49

**DYKE:** [Laughs.]

0:51

**GENTRY:** I'm pro-life, pro-gun, pro-God, pro-country. I believe that America should be number one, that we need to do things that help our country more so than other countries. I don't like a lot of illegal immigration, bringing people into this country that we have to pay for. We need to take care of ourselves. I believe in freedom of religion. I believe in a strong economy. I like the fact that Trump has created so many jobs and he's doing it again.

1:26

**MARGARET:** You and your husband have an arsenal of guns. They like it.

1:29

**GENTRY:** You don't need to say that. [Laughs.]

1:31

**MARGARET:** I know, but they like their right to keep and bear arms. Her husband's home honey?]. He thinks we're crazy to do this, but, only 'cause she's been wanting to come to one of these rallies so badly. So we finally did it, and it's gonna be great. He's gonna win tonight. We're gonna be so happy tomorrow.

1:45

**GENTRY:** I've always wanted to go to a Trump rally, but unfortunately, living in Virginia, which is pretty much blue now, he hasn't—.

1:51

**DYKE:** Yeah, it seems to be flipping.

1:53

**GENTRY:** And it's mainly because of northern Virginia, which—most of those people work in D. C., and they're Democrats. And I get really tired of—. It seems like the highly populated areas of Virginia make the decision of who we get to vote for for governor, and, you know, most of the rest of the state is red. But unfortunately, that's all the rural areas

2:13

**MARGARET:** So Carolina and Georgia are next. We hope that Carolina doesn't go that way. We hope Carolina—. This is a very important rally. I think it's a terribly important rally. I think this is gonna put him over the top with Carolina. I pray.

2:25

**GENTRY:** I don't like the way that the process treated President Trump. I think it's very unfair, and not only media, but also social media. I think he's pretty much had everything stacked against him. But I'm hoping that he'll still win anyway. 'Cause he has the best message, and I think he's gonna make America really prosper if he gets four more years.

2:52

**DYKE:** Mm-hmm. So, I think you've already answered this question, but what have you seen in the first four years of President Trump that you've enjoyed?

2:58

**GENTRY:** My 401K has greatly gone up. He's done really well producing jobs. I like his ending wars over in the Middle East. His peace treaties with Israel and the other countries that he's gotten to come on board. Building the wall to stop all this illegal immigration. [Supreme Court Justice] Amy Coney Barrett—getting three conservative judges. Did I miss anything? [Laughs.]

3:36

**MARGARET:** I like the way he's handle the virus and I'm a nurse. I think he couldn't have handled it any better.

3:36

**DYKE:** You're very well informed.

3:38

**GENTRY:** I listen to Rush Limbaugh—I listen to Rush Limbaugh a lot.

3:41

**DYKE:** And since you're getting on here—. We won't have a release for you, but I would at least like your name so that we can—

3:47

**MARGARET:** Me? Margaret.

3:48

**DYKE:** Margaret. Okay. Thank you, Margaret.

3:51

**GENTRY:** I listen to Rush a lot. I've been listening to Rush for thirty years.

3:54

**DYKE:** Oh, gosh, yeah.

3:55

**GENTRY:** He's kept me pretty informed.

3:57

**DYKE:** Yeah. So, how does the world seem to you now? I know that's a big, broad question.

4:03

**GENTRY:** I don't like the divisiveness. I don't—I feel like we're a divided country right now. And—

4:08

[various voices offering people in line "Trump 2020 Money, honey." To Dyke: "Do you all need one, sir?"

Dyke: "No, thank you."]

4:16

**GENTRY:** And, you know, it's like we don't have—. Even the people that are against us, we don't seem to have anything in common anymore. We want to make America great; and they want to tear America apart and start it all over again with their leftist ideas.

4:31

**DYKE:** Yeah. And that feels new?

4:37

**GENTRY:** Well, I think this is the worst it's ever been, especially with the rioting and the looting and the violence. Like, if you believe something that they don't believe, they want to beat you up? I don't remember it ever being like that.

4:56

**DYKE:** So, what they would say is, you know, is that they're fighting to correct long, historical injustices—

5:03

**GENTRY:** Yeah, they don't believe in the Constitution.

5:05

**DYKE:** Ah.

5:11

**GENTRY:** And they would put their activist judges on the Court, and totally change everything. I don't want America to be a socialist country.

5:19

**DYKE:** Yeah. So what does that mean to you, socialism? I mean, like, when you said—. When you're thinking that that's the way we're going, what does that look like?

5:29

**GENTRY:** Well, they would let all the illegals that wanted to come here into the country, provide so-called free health care for everyone, take away my private insurance, increase our taxes. I think they would put an end to shows like talk radio that are conservative, like Rush's show.

6:00

**DYKE:** So, a lot of that just sounds like what Democrats usually do, and have since we've been alive.

6:05

**GENTRY:** But I think it's gonna be worse this time if they win. 'Cause I think they're gonna make Puerto Rico and D. C. a state, which would give them four Democratic Senators so they could always keep the Senate. They're gonna stop the filibuster so they can do whatever they want. I mean, it's got a lot riding on Trump winning this year.

6:29

**DYKE:** Yeah. So, what's the positive? Like, when you see—when President wins reelection, how do you see this going positively?

6:37

**GENTRY:** I think he'll create more jobs. We're gonna get the vaccines soon and get the country back open like it should be. [Gentry is referring to the global pandemic of COVID-19 or Coronavirus that caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans and massively disrupted the economy.] I think he will create a new health care program for people that need health insurance. He doesn't need to redo everyone's health insurance. He's gonna keep the Supreme Court conservative, so they'll vote based on the Constitution and not on their beliefs. I think he'll make Israel even safer by getting more countries to come on board with the peace agreement. I don't think he'll start any more wars in the Middle East. He'll keep Iran at bay, and keep sanctions on them.

7:26

**MARGARET:** Unless he asked about the China [inaudible].

7:29

**GENTRY:** Oh, yeah, and he'll keep China accountable. Hopefully he'll figure out a way to make them pay something for what they've done to this country. And he'll be pro-gun. He's not gonna take your guns away, so that you are gonna be defenseless. And he's pro-religion. He's not gonna tell you [you] can't go to church.

8:04

**DYKE:** So, you just named two things that are—. Those are the first two amendments to the Constitution: freedom of religion, Amendment number one—

8:17

**GENTRY:** Freedom of the press, yeah.

8:17

**DYKE:** Yeah. And then—

8:19

**GENTRY:** The right to bear arms.

8:20

**DYKE:** The right to bear arms. Right. So—

8:21

**GENTRY:** He's gonna uphold the Constitution.

8:24

**DYKE:** Okay. And you think that those things are under threat if he doesn't [win].

8:27

**GENTRY:** Yes. [Sees stickers or paraphernalia for North Carolina's Republican candidate for governor, Dan Forest.] Who's Dan Forest?

8:36

**MARGARET:** What? Oh, they're—. North Carolina—running for—

8:37

**GENTRY:** Who's the guy? I didn't take one, 'cause we don't live in North Carolina.

8:41

**MARGARET:** I know, but, isn't he the guy [inaudible] whole Republican [inaudible]? 'Cause he needs the help, you know? At least we can do is wear his badge.

8:53

**DYKE:** So, one thing I'm interested in—I'm just interested in this personally—is uncertainty.

9:00

**GENTRY:** Yeah. That makes me really nervous.

9:02

**MARGARET:** What are you talking about? What uncertainty?

9:04

**GENTRY:** Uncertainty.

9:05

**MARGARET:** You mean, the uncertainty of this?

9:08

**DYKE:** Yes.

9:08

**GENTRY:** My major concern is the uncertainty of what the Democrats are gonna do if they win.

9:10

**MARGARET:** I just hope the Republicans have better lawyers than the Democrats.

9:14

**DYKE:** Yeah, but sort of in general. I mean, uncertainty. It feels like it's hard to know what's going to happen next.

9:20

**GENTRY:** That's right! The way things are now, right is wrong and wrong is right, according to the Democrats.

9:26

**MARGARET:** I mean, this is, like, more than just an election. That's why I think most people are hoping he's going to win. Because he's gonna save our country. I mean, otherwise—. And he's done so much to help the GOP. Maybe henceforward we'll be the working-class party, and minorities will be feel [sic] comfortable here. And we'll never have to deal with this bullshit again.

9:41

**GENTRY:** And look at all he's done for the minorities! With the platinum plan, and— [Trump released his "Black Economic Empowerment Platinum Plan," with a collection of proposals designed to appeal to African Americans.<sup>1</sup>

9:44

**MARGARET:** Because if he wins, it might be because of African American and Hispanic votes. I mean, that's a huge thing, you know? And that would be a gift, from the man above, for so many reasons.

9:52

**DYKE:** But of course, especially African Americans have a history of voting Democrat—

9:57

**GENTRY:** Democrat, yeah.

10:00

**DYKE:** Are they just wrong?

10:02

**GENTRY:** Yeah. 'Cause what have the Democrats done for 'em the past fifty years?

10:06

**MARGARET:** I think they were used. Everybody knows that. They were kind of used [inaudible].

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/25/politics/donald-trump-black-empowerment-platinum-plan/index.html>

10:07

**GENTRY:** “You’re not black.” Biden says, “You’re not black if you don’t vote for me.” I mean, where does he have the right to tell a particular race, “you’ve got to vote for a Democrat, or you’re not black?” [In a May interview with the radio host Charlamagne tha God, Biden said, “if you have a problem figuring out whether you’re for me or Trump, then you ain’t black.” He apologized for those comments later that day, noting a long record of supporting black rights and saying that he had been “much too cavalier.”]<sup>2</sup>

10:19

**MARGARET:** I mean, it’s this whole 1619 versus 1778 [sic]: our country’s going to have to wrestle with it. [This refers to the New York *Times*’ “1619 Project,” a series of articles which placed “the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center” of American history.<sup>3</sup> Offended by this prospect, Trump convened a “1776 Commission” to promote what he called “patriotic education.”<sup>4</sup>] But we’ll see what happens. You take it day by day, you know? This is a step in the right direction. The fact that we’re even here—. Three weeks ago, I didn’t think we were gonna be here. So, for the grace of God, whoever pulls the strings. ‘Cause I know I’ve been praying. Nobody wants to lose their country. Nobody wants to *leave* their country. And a lot of people were thinking about leaving. If we go socialist, if we’re a Marxist country, I don’t want to live in it. And, you know, it’s—[inaudible] where else do you go?

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/05/22/joe-biden-breakfast-club-interview-274490>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiV\\_-q8p-7sAhUvWN8KHRL2BbYQFjAAegQIAxAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2Finteractive%2F2019%2F08%2F14%2Fmagazine%2F1619-america-slavery.html&usg=AOvVaw2Kyi4oD61Utt-0wrN6j5Ri](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiV_-q8p-7sAhUvWN8KHRL2BbYQFjAAegQIAxAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2Finteractive%2F2019%2F08%2F14%2Fmagazine%2F1619-america-slavery.html&usg=AOvVaw2Kyi4oD61Utt-0wrN6j5Ri)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/elanagross/2020/11/02/trump-signs-executive-order-to-establish-a-1776-commission-to-instill-patriotic-education/?sh=5ad7098d6dc3>

10:47

**GENTRY:** It's like, where do you go? Where else is there to go?

10:49

**MARGARET:** I don't want to live in Canada, and, like—

10:51

**GENTRY:** We're the last hope.

10:53

**MARGARET:** But it's almost like—if you ever saw *The Sound of Music*, when he had to leave Austria, 'cause, you know, the Third Reich, I would do that. I would leave my house entirely if I thought my freedoms were [up?]

11:05

**DYKE:** So, that's what's at stake?

11:06

**MARGARET:** Yeah. I mean, this is bigger—

11:08

**DYKE:** I mean, we've had Democrats in office before.

11:13

**MARGARET:** Biden's not a normal Democrat. He's been—. He's got mid-stage dementia. He's senile, and he's being used as a Trojan Horse, so that—. Obama always wanted Kamala Harris [in the White House]. And that's who they want. And I don't know how they're gonna get him out, but they are, real fast. And he's not even gonna have a chance to get in. I think Americans are finally working that out. And I just hope it's enough that we can—. Pennsylvania really concerns me. So if there are enough votes in Pennsylvania to offset the dishonesty, I think he'll [i.e., Trump] be okay.

11:40

**GENTRY:** Your state concerns me.

11:42

**MARGARET:** This state concerns me. As much if not more than Pennsylvania. I think Michigan and North Carolina and Pennsylvania are the three biggest concerning states right now. But I think [Michigan Republican Senate candidate] John James is gonna pull the president over the line in Michigan. I'm pretty good with that. I think he's—[finally?] the second time—he's great. I like him a lot. And that—for so many reasons, I just can't—. We're very lucky. The stars are all aligned.

12:08

**DYKE:** Thank you so much.

12:08

**GENTRY:** Thank you.

12:09

**MARGARET:** [To Gentry] You did great, missy!