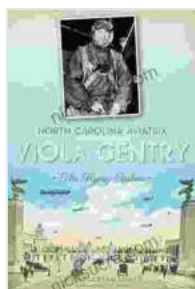


# Viola Gentry: The "Flying Cashier" Who Soared Above the Clouds

Discover the remarkable story of Viola Gentry, a cashier who defied societal norms to become a pioneering aviatrix.



## North Carolina Aviatrix, Viola Gentry: The Flying Cashier by Jennifer Bean Bower

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 5616 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 195 pages
Lending	: Enabled



## Early Life and Career

Viola Gentry was born on April 17, 1903, in rural North Carolina. From a young age, she displayed a keen interest in aviation. However, societal expectations for women during that era typically steered them towards domestic roles rather than careers in male-dominated fields like aviation.

Undeterred by these societal constraints, Gentry pursued her passion for aviation. She worked as a cashier to save money for flying lessons and eventually obtained her pilot's license in 1929. Her love for flying was

evident, and she quickly became a skilled pilot, earning the respect and admiration of her peers.



### **Breaking Barriers as an Aviatix**

During a time when women were largely excluded from aviation, Gentry's determination to become a pilot was nothing short of remarkable. She faced numerous obstacles and prejudices, but her unwavering resolve propelled her forward. Gentry actively participated in air races and

exhibitions, demonstrating her exceptional piloting skills and challenging the prevailing notions about women's capabilities.

In 1931, Gentry made history by becoming the first woman to receive a transport pilot's license in North Carolina. This significant achievement opened doors for other aspiring female aviators and paved the way for greater opportunities in the field of aviation.

### **Contributions to the Community**

Beyond her own flying accomplishments, Gentry dedicated herself to promoting aviation and inspiring future generations. She established the Viola Gentry School of Aviation in Asheville, North Carolina, where she shared her knowledge and passion for flying with countless aspiring aviators.

Gentry's legacy extends far beyond her lifetime. She became a role model for women who dared to dream of pursuing careers in aviation and other STEM fields. Her pioneering spirit and unwavering determination continue to inspire aviators and individuals around the world.

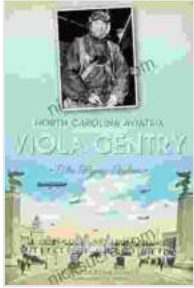
### **Recognition and Legacy**

Viola Gentry's groundbreaking achievements and contributions to aviation have been recognized and honored throughout history. She received numerous awards and accolades, including the prestigious Amelia Earhart Medal in 1949. Gentry's name and accomplishments are forever enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

The legacy of Viola Gentry lives on through the many women and girls who have followed in her footsteps, pursuing their dreams and breaking barriers

in the field of aviation. Her story continues to inspire and empower generations to come.

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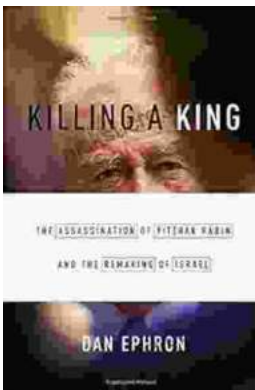


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