

## Recent immigrant workers in Iowa's meatpacking industry

Archie Green Fellows Project, 2015-2016

David Monnie Segbee interview, 2016-05-09 : interview conducted by John W. McKerley

Interview ID: afc2015026\_03119

Date: May 9, 2016

Duration: 01:18:13

- 00:00:00 Introductions and background information.
- 00:01:00 Born in Bong County, Liberia and description of the area.
- 00:02:00 Familial background and history.
- 00:04:00 Description of parents' background and work.
- 00:06:00 Reflections of childhood in 1980s Liberia.
- 00:09:00 Discussion of political conflicts and how it shaped Segbee's childhood at a macro-level.
- 00:11:00 Fled in the mid-1990s to the Ivory Coast as a refugee.
- 00:13:00 Segbee's educational process and schooling while in Liberia.
- 00:15:00 Wanted to be a police officer while growing up and reflections of the dream.
- 00:16:00 Idea of coming to the United States begins in 1990 upon his brother fleeing to the country.
- 00:18:00 Brother applies for temporary protective status in America while living in Minneapolis.
- 00:20:00 Details concerning the application into the refugee program.
- 00:22:00 Early details about living in the Ivory Coast including information about how money was made while living in the Ivory Coast.
- 00:24:00 Difficulty finding jobs in Africa unless you know someone. Many sell aid items for money.

- 00:27:00 Details about his own refugee process and help through the Lutheran social services.
- 00:29:00 Comparison between David and his brother's admissions process into the United States.
- 00:30:00 David details how faith plays a part of his life from childhood to adulthood.
- 00:32:00 David moves to Minneapolis in 2000 and explains early life in the United States.
- 00:34:00 Explains the timeline of life in Minneapolis and receiving education in the United States.
- 00:37:00 Description of job performing the work of an x-ray technician. David found himself driving around to prisons and nursing homes to perform duties.
- 00:39:00 David explains the type of coworkers he had during his work as an x-ray technician.
- 00:40:00 David discusses how his degree he received was from an unaccredited school and could not find a job at a hospital or clinic.
- 00:41:00 Discussion about the ethics behind the unaccredited programs.
- 00:42:00 Discussion of how the post-9/11 world has played a role in the life of David.
- 00:44:00 Life of a refugee in northern Minneapolis and decision to leave revolving around not wanting his children to grow up there.
- 00:45:00 Decision to leave children behind reflected the bureaucracy of paperwork and them not being on the affidavit.
- 00:47:00 David's children and mother arrive in 2007 and eldest daughter arrives in 2009.
- 00:48:00 Seeds of moving to Waterloo, Iowa, and decision to move to the city. It results in a pay cut.
- 00:50:00 Accepts work at meatpacking plant but decides not to work there due to the structure of employment, the stress and lack of concern for employee illness.

- 00:52:00 Meatpacking jobs enticing due to ease of finding work in the industry and a weekly paycheck.
- 00:54:00 Begins work at Exceptional Persons Incorporated (EPI) and details work at the group home.
- 00:59:00 Receives an Associate of Arts degree as a police officer in 2011 and begins a degree in criminology at the University of Northern Iowa.
- 01:02:00 Liberian populations' support within the Waterloo, Iowa, area.
- 01:04:00 Ethnic conflict creates problems for creating pan-Liberian organization in Waterloo, Iowa.
- 01:07:00 Relationships between Liberians and other ethnic and racial populations in Waterloo, Iowa.
- 01:14:00 Future plans