

# ZEPHYRHILLS ORAL HISTORY

## VOICEOVER TRANSCRIPT

**James "Buster" Tokley**

Recorded January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Twenty men, women and children on a boxcar, looking for a home, disembarked in a town with the peculiar name of Zephyrhills. And when they did, their dreams and visions would become the basis for part of a wonderful American story. For what you are about to see and hear is a living testimony that is as American as apple pie. It is the story of the black community of Zephyrhills, Florida.

Poet Langston Hughes wrote, "I've know rivers. I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of blood in human veins. My soul has grown deep like the river. Ancient, yet everflowing toward the future." We've heard the voices of the past and present, but yet to speak are the millennial voices—the voices of the future. What do they see in this community that their ancestors left? Only the future can tell. But here, in this southern city, the future lays waiting.

Now you know the story of Zephyrhills' black community. It was not only a Zephyrhills story, but it was an American story. Your story. Our story.