

October 15, 2020

## **Michael Frazier**

It may not make a difference in Poughkeepsie, but in Rhinebeck it's important to warn listeners that Frazier is NOT a native. His knowledge of local history is not in his blood and might therefore be a bit suspect. He moved there from the Midwest at age 24, to teach neglected, dependent, and delinquent high school students. When Frazier became a school administrator in the 1970s, he had to leave behind his love of teaching American History. So when he retired in 2005 after thirty years as a school superintendent, he joined the Rhinebeck Historical Society. He is now a board member, the organization's treasurer, and their archivist. At the Rhinebeck Historical Society, he has focused on collaborating with a talented pool of volunteers to digitize a growing collection. In 2012, only because Town Historian Nancy Kelly was too busy to do so herself, at her urging he wrote *Images of America: Rhinebeck*. His specialized interest has been early maps of Northern Dutchess County, and his current passion is working with other volunteers on one of the largest and oldest and most important collection of documents in Rhinebeck, namely the archives of the Rhinebeck Reformed Church. He serves as Village Historian, and as deputy to Town Historian Nancy Kelly.

Frazier also served for nineteen years as a member of the Rhinebeck Village Planning Board, most of that time as its chair, and for two years as Village trustee. He chaired the Village Master Plan Committee and oversaw the transition from master plan to Village Zoning Code. He serves on the board of the Rhinebeck Center for Performing Arts, and he is a member of the Rhinebeck Rotary Club, where he chairs a committee that provides home repair services to needy seniors in the community.