

## F.E. Carpenter Award Given to Heath 6<sup>th</sup> Grader

Frank Carpenter was a long-time Heath summer resident with his family starting in 1920, after having been born in the Howland's old house in town center on East Main Street. He must have liked that part of town as he went on to rebuild and live in Edith Overly's old house and then right next to it, Plover Hill, the White sister's home which my family now owns.

Frank, being a lover of Heath history, did much for the Heath Historical Society, the old Town House and Fort Shirley. He must have had an affinity for Heath children and education as well because somewhere in the 1940's – 1950's he established the F. E. Carpenter Award that was given to a deserving Heath 6<sup>th</sup> grader attending the designated school for Heath, now Colrain Central. The student is selected by the principal and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and must be an individual who has achieved academic and social success during the school year. It is not so much an award driven by grades but by the student who has worked hard to improve themselves as a student and as an individual.

After Frank's passing, his daughter Harriet, continued the tradition on her father's behalf and before her death, established a \$2,000 trust with the intention of having the generated interest fund the \$25 award. Some where along the way, the award was increased to \$50 and at times the interest generated from the principal trust did not always meet the needs of the award. Caring Heathans would donate money to help fill the gap.

Because there are no Carpenter family members left in the area, the duty falls to the Select Board to present the award as they are now the 'keepers' of the trust. Because my family has resided in the Carpenter's home for 33 years now, and knew Harriet, it was my absolute pleasure to present this year's award on behalf of the Carpenter Family. This year's award went to a student who was described to me by Colrain Central School Principal, Amy Looman, as a "hard worker who has shown persistence and attention to detail, always willing to navigate her way through challenges that she faced." Alexis Johnston was so surprised and shocked when I read her name and presenter her with a \$50 check. Congratulations Alexis as best wishes as you enter 7<sup>th</sup> grade!

~ Elissa Viarengo