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August 29, 2011

Museums of Old York

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MUSEUMS OF OLD YORK ANNOUNCES THE NAMING OF THE VIRGINIA WEARE PARSONS VISITOR CENTER

York Maine, August 29, 2011. The members attending the Museums of Old York's annual meeting on August 21 voted unanimously to name the Museums' program and exhibition facility the Virginia Weare Parsons Education Center. Board President Charles Steedman introduced the resolution as proposed by a unanimous vote of the trustees, citing Mrs. Parsons' decades of service to her community.

Jinny, as she is known to friends and family, devoted 40 years to education in York. She taught English at York High School for 23 years, and then served as a guidance counselor at the high school and junior high school for 14 years. She continued counseling part-time for 3 years after retiring in 1978. She speaks of the hundreds of people whose lives she helped shape as her children, and maintains cherished friendships with many of them to this day.

Jinny's participation in the life of her community extended beyond its schools. She volunteered at York Hospital from 1981 until recently. She served many terms on the boards of the Museums of Old York and the York Public Library, and is a trustee emeritus of both organizations. She was the honorary chair of the Heritage Campaign that raised over \$2.8 million to build the facility that now bears her name to and bolster the Museums' endowment.

A native and lifelong resident of York, Jinny is a direct descendant of three early York families, the Bragdens, the McIntires, and the Weares. Friends joke that half the people in town are related, former students, or former colleagues.

The Museums withheld announcement of the naming until a celebration of Jinny's 91st birthday on August 29. Executive Director Scott Stevens stated: "There is no name more fitting for a facility devoted to educating people about our town's heritage. All of us at Old York are pleased to think that Jinny will join John Hancock, Elizabeth Perkins, and George Marshall in having a building forever associated with her legacy."

