

Lancaster Freedom Train Committee Records, 1947-1949

Object ID: MG0706

1 box 26 folders .25 cubic ft.

Repository: LancasterHistory (Organization); PV7

Shelving Location: Archives South, Side 15

Scope and Content Note: This collection contains documents pertaining to the planning and preparation for the Freedom Train visit to Lancaster, as well as the corresponding Rededication Week celebration. These documents include press releases from The American Heritage Foundation describing the Freedom Train project, correspondence between The American Heritage Foundation and members of the Lancaster Freedom Train Committee discussing the Committee's plans for the celebration and their fundraising efforts. There is also correspondence between the Mayor of Lancaster, Dale E. Cary, and John W. Beyer discussing the formation of the Freedom Train Committee, the monetary contributions of the public, and the roles different organizations were taking in the Rededication Week celebration. The collection also includes a list of the Lancaster Freedom Train Committee members, materials regarding the formation of the committee, and various form letters sent to businesses thanking them for their contribution to the celebration. There are a number of publications in this collection, including information for the media and local churches, a large booklet detailing the goals and origins of The American Heritage Foundation, as well as a complete list of the cities the Freedom Train would be stopping in and the various railroads it would be using during its journey.

Creator: Beyer, John W. (1914-1990)

Biographical and Historical Information:

"The 1947 - 1949 Freedom Train was conceived as an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of American citizenship at a time when the nation was finding a new and central role in world affairs."¹

The Lancaster Freedom Train Committee was assembled in 1948 to plan the Rededication Week celebration in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and prepare for the Freedom Train's arrival. The Committee was made up of 19 individuals who were responsible for fundraising, planning events and programs for the celebration, and working with community to make sure the visit went according to the plans of The American Heritage Foundation. John W. Beyer served as General Chairman of the committee, and the Mayor of Lancaster, Dale E. Cary, served as Honorary Chairman.

John W. Beyer was born on September 19, 1914 in Palmyra, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, to Caroline and Robert Beyer. He graduated from Upper Leacock Township High School in 1932, and then attended Franklin and Marshall College. After



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graduating 1936, Beyer attended the University of Pennsylvania, and received his law degree in 1939. Beyer began practicing law in 1940 as a partner in the law offices of Arnold, Beyer & Homsher. Beyer served in the Lancaster County District Attorney's office from 1943 to 1953, when he resigned from the position. Beyer served on many committees and was involved in multiple civic organizations including the Lancaster Aero Club, the Lancaster Exchange Club, and the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra. He died August, 14, 1990.

Dr. Dale E. Cary was born December 26, 1880 in Waynesburg, Greene County, Pennsylvania, to Elizabeth and Marcena Cary. He attended school in the Waynesburg County public school system, and later attended Waynesburg College. Cary spent three years teaching, and two years as assistant principal in the Brownsville Public School system before deciding to attend medical school at Jefferson Medical College. In 1911 Cary came to Lancaster, where he served a one-year internship at Lancaster General Hospital. He later started a private practice, and became one of two physicians serving the Lancaster City Schools. In 1941 Cary became Lancaster General's Medical Director, a position he held until 1945. Cary served three terms as Mayor of Lancaster, holding office from 1938-1950. He died on May 19, 1958, and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

¹ <http://www.freedomtrain.org/freedom-train-story-02-why-a-freedom-train.htm>

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Related Materials: www.freedomtrain.org
www.lincoln-highway-museum.org

Subject Headings:

Cary, Dale E. (1880-1958)

Beyer, John W. (1914-1990)

Freedom Train (LHo-LOC sh 85051714)

American Heritage Foundation (LHo-LOC no 95007807)

Business records (LHo-LOC sh 85018316)

Lancaster (Pa.) (LHo-LOC n 79106203)

Processing History: Processed and finding aid prepared by RA, January-March 2015. This collection has been documented, preserved and managed according to



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professional museum and archives standards. The collection was cataloged using DACS conventions.



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Folder 1 "Documents and Memorabilia of the American Heritage Carried on the Freedom Train". List and description of items and name of lender for each. (28 pages)
No date

Press Release. "Freedom Train Documents Expanded to 128: 30 Additional Documents and Famous Battle Flags Added" From Richard Condon, The American Heritage Foundation. (3 pages) 16 September 1947

Envelope. Addressed to Mr. Richard Lowell at Lancaster Jr. Chamber of Commerce. Return address American Heritage Foundation, Room 408 1501 Broadway, New York 18, N.Y. No Date

Folder 2 "The American Heritage Program for your Community". This community program book offers many suggestions to assist each local committee in planning a Week of Rededication. June 1948

Folder 3 "Sermon Notes". Religious foundations of our American heritage. Prepared for the American Heritage Foundation by The Reader's Digest Program Service, Pleasantville, New York. No Date

Folder 4

Insert 1 Suggested plan for mayor's committee organizational chart. (2 copies) No date

Insert 2 Freedom Train master control sheet. Week 56 of tour, train director W.H.S. O'Brien. (2 pages) 5-11 October 1948

Insert 3 Freedom Train committee manual. No date

Folder 5 "Conference at the White House". For the purpose of organizing the American Heritage Program and Inaugurating the Freedom Train. Sponsored by the Attorney General of the United States. 22 May 1947

Folder 6 "Information for motion picture exhibitors on The American Heritage Program" and "Information for press, and radio on The American Heritage Program". No date

Folder 7 "Slant your Display the Freedom Train Way". Order form for Freedom Train display reproductions. No date

Folder 8 Rededication Week proclamation template. (2 copies) No date

Folder 9 Description of Freedom Train concept, construction, operation, and exhibit holdings. (11 pages) No Date

Folder 10 Approved schedule for Freedom Train. Part IV, covers period of Freedom Train Tour from June 29, 1948 to October 16, 1948. (2 copies, 4 pages each) 15 April 1948

Folder 11 "First Six Months of the Freedom Train: A report of the American Heritage Foundation at the half-way mark of the National Rededication Program". Published by



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The American Heritage Foundation, 17 East Forty-fifth Street, New York 17, N.Y. No date

Folder 12 Memorandum "Information Regarding Financing of the American Heritage Program and Tour of the Freedom Train". (3 pages) No date.

Folder 13 "New York Times" article discussing the intentions of the American Heritage Foundation. 21 June 1947

Folder 14

Insert 1 Letter from J. Edward Shugrue Director, American Heritage Foundation, to Richard J. Lowell, Sr. Lancaster Junior Chamber of Commerce regarding scheduled stop in Lancaster. 11 July 1947

Insert 2 Letter from William T. Faricy, President of the Association of American Railroads, to Officers of railroad companies regarding logistics of the Freedom Train tour. List of recipients attached. (2 copies, 7 pages each) 31 July 1947

Insert 3 Letter from J. Edward Shugrue Director, American Heritage Foundation, to Hon. Dale E. Cary, Mayor of Lancaster regarding a news release announcing the start of the "Year of Dedication". 5 September 1947

Letter from J. Edward Shugrue Director, American Heritage Foundation, to Hon. Dale E. Cary, Mayor of Lancaster regarding publicity information for scheduled Freedom Train stop in Lancaster. 17 September 1947

Insert 4 Letter from Lyman C. Hunt, Program Chairman Burlington, Vermont Branch of the American Heritage Foundation, to J. Edward Shugrue Director, American Heritage Foundation regarding the events of Burlington, Vermont's "Week of Rededication". (3 pages) 30 September 1947

Folder 15

Insert 1 Letter from John W. Beyer to Mayor Dale E. Cary regarding the formation of a Freedom Train Committee in Lancaster. (2 pages) 10 August 1948

Insert 2 Copies of the letter from W. Beyer to Mayor Dale E. Cary regarding the formation of a Freedom Train Committee in Lancaster. (4 copies, 2 pages each) 10 August 1948

Folder 16

Insert 1 Letter from Alan Metreger, 2310 S. 59th Ave. Cicero, ILL. to The General Chairman of the Rededication Week and Freedom Train Celebration regarding the construction and planning of the Rededication Week Parade. 24 August 1948

Letter from James E. Wagner, Minister at Saint Peter's Church, Lancaster PA, to John W. Beyer, Esq. 110 East King Street, Lancaster regarding the Church Section of the Freedom Train Committee. (2 pages) 25 August 1948

Insert 2 Memorandum from L.W. Newcomer, Secretary, to Mayor Cary regarding letter described below. 11 August 1948

Letter from Alan Metreger, Official Float Decorator, Fort Wayne Rededication Week Parade, to the Secretary of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce regarding the



Rededication Week Parade in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and the upcoming Rededication Week in Lancaster. 7 August 1948

Newspaper Article titled "Job of Decorating Parade Floats Full of Fun, But it Also has No end of Grief, Heartaches". *The News-Sentinel*, Fort Wayne, Indiana. 5 August 1948.

Insert 3 Note from Eric Friedheim to Mr. Beyer regarding his arrival in Lancaster on Friday September 3, 1948. No date

Note from D. E. Cary to Mr. Beyer regarding the letter described below. 12 September 1948

Letter from Martin M. Harnish, President of the Lancaster Bar Association, to William R. Simpson, Esq. 52 North Duke Street, Lancaster regarding the appointing of a committee from the Bar Association to work with the Freedom Train Committee. 20 July 1948

Insert 4 Letter from John W. Beyer, Chairman of Lancaster City Freedom Train Committee, to The American Heritage Foundation, 17 East 45th Street, New York City, N.Y. regarding the ordering of publicity and committee materials. (2 pages) 10 September 1948

Letter from Eric Friedheim, Area Director, to John W. Beyer regarding the Freedom Train visit to Lancaster, and congratulating, and thanking him for the preparation and successful visit. 14 October 1948.

Insert 5 Letter from Richard A. Snyder to Hon. K.L. Shirk St. 33 North Duke Street, Lancaster regarding the plans to have a refreshment stand set up and operated by the American Legion while the Freedom Train is in Lancaster. 1 October 1948

Letter from K.L. Shirk to John W. Beyer, Esq. 110 East King Street, Lancaster regarding the letter described above. 5 October 1948

Letter from K.L. Shirk to John W. Beyer, Esq. 110 East King Street, Lancaster regarding a thank-you received for the purchase of Freedom Train tickets. 7 October 1948

Folder 17

Insert 1 Letter from J. Edward Shugrue, National Director of the American Heritage Foundation, to John W. Beyer, 110 East King Street, Lancaster regarding the Week of Rededication and thanking him for his work on the project. 4 January 1949

Letter from J. Edward Shugrue, National Director of The American Heritage Foundation, to Hon. Dale E. Cary, Mayor of Lancaster regarding the Week of Redeication and thanking him for his work on the project. 4 January 1949

Insert 2 Letter from John W. Beyer to Rev. Brubaker, 236 Lancaster Ave regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to Rev. James E. Wagner, 338 College Ave, Lancaster regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to R.L. Eshleman, 237 South West End Avenue, Lancaster regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to Donald Witmer, 737 New Holland Ave, Lancaster regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949



Letter from John W. Beyer to J.A. Butler, 121 Rose Avenue, Lancaster regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to Walter C. Miller, c/o Manufacturers Association, 28 East Orange St. Lancaster regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to Alfred O. McGaw, 675 Manor Street, Lancaster regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to Bert Leighton, 825 Martha Ave, Lancaster regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to John Himes, WLAN, 252 North Queen Street, Lancaster regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to Walter O. Miller, WGAL, 8 West King Street, Lancaster regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to Herbert B. Krone, Lancaster New Era, 8 West King St, Lancaster regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to Paul B. Souder, 235 West Orange St, Lancaster regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to K.L. Shirk, Esq. 33 North Duke St, Lancaster regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to Herbert W. Kauffman, 431 North President Ave, Lancaster regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to Richard Lowell, 38 West Orange St, Lancaster regarding his donation and thanking him on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary for his efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to The Junior Chamber of Commerce, Lancaster thanking them on behalf of the Mayor, Dale E. Cary, for their efforts in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to Robert Gunder, Landisville, PA, thanking him for his support in bringing the Freedom Train to Lancaster. 10 January 1949

Letter from John W. Beyer to Mayor Dale E. Cary, Lancaster regarding the final payment made to The American Heritage Foundation, and detailing the thank-you letters sent to contributing members of the Lancaster Freedom Train Committee. 10 January 1949

Insert 3 Receipt. James G. Blaine, Treasurer, The American Heritage Foundation, received \$419.98 payment from John W. Beyer, Finance Chairman, Lancaster Freedom Train Committee, for cost of bringing Freedom Train to Lancaster. 12 January 1949



Letter from Winthrop W. Aldrich, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, The American Heritage Foundation, to John W. Beyer, Finance Chairman, Lancaster Freedom Train Committee thanking him for the Committee's efforts in the Freedom Train project. 12 January 1949

Receipt. James G. Blaine, Treasurer, The American Heritage Foundation, received \$65.00 payment from John W. Beyer, Finance Chairman, Lancaster Freedom Train Committee, for cost of bringing Freedom Train to Lancaster. 8 February 1949

Handwritten memo from Jim Wagner to John Beyer regarding copies of letters. No Date

Letter from H.J. Valley, The American Heritage Foundation, to John W. Beyer, Lancaster Freedom Train Committee regarding the money received, and money owed to The American Heritage Foundation for the Freedom Train visit. 8 February 1949

Letter to The American Heritage Foundation from John W. Beyer, regarding a \$65.00 check sent to the Foundation. 7 February 1949

Letter to The American Heritage Foundation from John W. Beyer, regarding a \$419.98 donation check sent to the Foundation. 10 January 1949

Insert 4 Letter from John W. Beyer to The American Heritage Foundation, Attn: H.J. Valley regarding the letter sent to him on 8 February 1949, and expressing his disappointment regarding the small amount raised by the merchants and citizens of Lancaster. 11 February 1949

Folder 18

Insert 1 Invitation cards to the Freedom Train Official Inspection Party. (3 cards) 10 October 1948

Insert 2 "Notes on Organization" Lists of possible individuals and organizations to contact for donations for the Freedom Train visit and an outline for future meetings, includes handwritten notes. (3 copies, 2 pages each) No date.

Insert 3 Packing check list, Mayor's Kit, American Heritage Foundation. No date

Folder 19

Insert 1 List of Lancaster Freedom Train Committee member names, positions, and addresses. No date

Expanded list of Lancaster Freedom Train Committee member names, positions, and addresses (business and home). (2 copies, 2 pages each)

Insert 2 Letter from John W. Beyer to Mayor Dale E. Cary regarding the newly formed Lancaster Train Committee, and a list of members. (3 pages) 10 August 1948

Insert 3 List of tickets ordered for Freedom Train Visit. (2 copies, 1 page each) No Date

Folder 20

Insert 1 Letter from John W. Beyer, Chairman and Herbert W. Kauffman, Treasurer, Lancaster Freedom Train Committee to "gentlemen" regarding the need to raise more money to pay the costs of the Freedom Train stopping in Lancaster. (2 copies, 1 page each) No date

Insert 2 Membership roster for the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce. (8 pages) No date

Envelope with handwritten note referring to document mentioned below. No date



Handwritten note referring to document below left by John W. Beyer for Les Newcomer.
No date

Edited letter from John W. Beyer, Chairman and Herbert W. Kauffman, Treasurer, Lancaster Freedom Train Committee to "gentlemen" regarding the need to raise money to pay the costs of the Freedom Train stopping in Lancaster. No date

Insert 3 Letter from Herbert W. Kauffman, Chairman of the Finance Committee of Lancaster City, to the Fraternal/Organizations of Lancaster, regarding the need to raise more money to pay the costs of the Freedom Train stopping in Lancaster. No date

Folder 21 Addresses delivered at the White House Conference and Proceedings at The American Heritage Foundation Luncheon. (30 pages) 22 May 1947

Folder 22

Insert 1 Press Release from Richard Condon, The American Heritage Foundation detailing the physical description of the Freedom Train as well as the mileage of individual railroads involved in the movement of the freedom train. (3 pages) 17 August [1947]

Press Release from Richard Condon, The American Heritage Foundation introducing the American Heritage Campaign's slogan: "Freedom is Everybody's Job". (2 pages) 21 August 1948

Press Release from Richard Condon, The American Heritage Foundation announcing the list of items to be carried and displayed on the Freedom Train. (3 pages) 24 August 1947

Press Release from Richard Condon, The American Heritage foundation announcing that Irving Berlin had donated his song "The Freedom Train", as well as the copyright and all royalties to the American Heritage Foundation. Also includes "Freedom Train" lyrics. (3 pages) 25 August 1947

Press Release from Richard Condon, The American Heritage Foundation announcing James Sauter as national chairman of the Public Relations and Special Events Division of the American Heritage Foundation. 25 August 1947

Press Release from Richard Condon, The American Heritage Foundation detailing how the press, radio, advertising and movie facilities will be used further advertise the Freedom Train and the Year of Rededication. (2 pages) 26 August [1947]

Insert 2 Press Release from Richard Condon, The American Heritage Foundation describing the Freedom Train tour, and the details of the document protection. (2 copies, 3 pages each) 28 August 1947

Insert 3 Envelope from The American Heritage Foundation, 17 East 45th Street, New York 17, N.Y. to Mr. Richard Lowell, Lancaster Jr. Chamber of Commerce, 45 East Orange St. Lancaster. 29 August 1947

Press Release from Richard Condon, The American Heritage Foundation announcing the twenty-eight Marine Corps enlisted men and officers who will guard the Freedom Train. (2 copies, 2 pages each) 31 August 1947

Folder 23

Insert 1 Press Release from Richard Condon, The American Heritage Foundation detailing the Freedom Train tour and schedule. (9 pages) 2 September 1947



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Envelope from The American Heritage Foundation, Room 408, 1501 Broadway, New York 18, N.Y. to Mr. Richard Lowell, Lancaster Jr. Chamber of Commerce, 45 East Orange St. Lancaster. 2 September 1947

Insert 2 Envelope from The American Heritage Foundation, Room 408, 1501 Broadway, New York 18, N.Y. To Honorable Mayor Dale E. Cary City, Hall, Lancaster. No Date

Insert 3 Press Release from Richard Condon, The American Heritage Foundation outlining each city's announcement of the Freedom Train's upcoming arrival. 17 September 1947

Press Release from Richard Condon, The American Heritage Foundation announcing the visit of a fourteen-man delegation from the International Transportation Federation, and listing the members of the delegation. (2 pages) 19 September [1947]

Insert 4 Envelope from The American Heritage Foundation, 17 East 45th Street, New York 17, N.Y. to Mr. Richard Lowell, Lancaster Jr. Chamber of Commerce, 45 East Orange St. Lancaster. 29 September 1947

Press Release from Richard Condon, The American Heritage Foundation announcing that segregation was not allowed at any exhibition of the Freedom Train. 29 September 1947

Folder 24 Envelope from The American Heritage Foundation, 17 East 45th Street, New York 17, N.Y. to Mr. Richard Lowell, Lancaster Jr. Chamber of Commerce, 45 East Orange St. Lancaster. 1 October 1947

Press Release from Richard Condon, The American Heritage Foundation detailing the Rededication Week celebrations in Boston, Massachusetts; Worcester, Massachusetts; Providence, Rhode Island; Nashua, New Hampshire; Montpelier, Vermont; Lowell, Massachusetts; Pittsfield, Massachusetts; and Utica, New York. (3 pages) 1 October 1947

Press Release from Richard Condon, The American Heritage Foundation detailing the Freedom Train welcome messages given in New York City. (3 pages) 26 September 1947

Folder 25 Special Bulletin 10B: Viewing of exhibition cars by Mayor's committees and meeting of the Freedom Train ceremony. Lancaster, October 10, 1948 (2 copies, 2 pages each) 2 October 1948

Folder 26 Church and Synagogue Share in welcoming the Freedom Train and in observing Rededication Week; religious advice for celebrating Rededication Week. (2 copies, 2 pages each) Program Dates: October 10 and October 3-10.

