

Reverend Dr. Wayne Nicarry

Wayne Nicarry, for whom Nicarry Hall was named after, was born on December 15, 1919.¹ When he graduated high school, he desired to attend Elizabethtown College, but due to the financial issues during the Great Depression, he was unable to attend.² Instead, he stayed at his home and helped with the farm.³ In 1939, he married Frances Oberholzer, who he had two sons with, Ronald and Wayne.⁴

After completing a civil engineering course, Nicarry had a job working on the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C.⁵ Nicarry also apprenticed in the machinist trade, leading to a job at the Landis Tool Company.⁶ At age 27, he worked with the brothers Dwight and John Grove to build rubber-tired farm wagons, which later grew into the Grove Manufacturing Company in 1948.⁷

Nicarry was highly involved in the Church of the Brethren throughout his life, and was ordained as a minister in 1946 by his home congregation, Falling Spring Church of the Brethren.⁸ In 1949, Nicarry became a “full-time pastor at the Chambersburg Church of the Brethren...until 1954,” at which point he decided to focus on Grove Manufacturing, which had become an “international crane manufacturer” employing thousands.⁹ Over his 40 years working at the company, he served a variety of leadership positions at the company, including the president.¹⁰ In March 1985, Nicarry retired from working at the company.¹¹

In 1968, Nicarry was elected to the Elizabethtown College Board as an associate trustee, and he served on the Board of Trustees for nearly 40 years until his death.¹² In 1974, Nicarry gave Elizabethtown College the largest single gift which the College has received, and the money was used to establish Nicarry Hall for the business and social sciences.¹³ In 1986, Elizabethtown College awarded Nicarry an honorary doctor of science degree.¹⁴ From 1991 to 1996, Nicarry served as Chairman of the Board for the College.¹⁵

Nicarry passed away on May 29, 2005.¹⁶

¹ Obituary for Wayne Nicarry, *The Herald-Mail*, May 31, 2005, http://articles.herald-mail.com/2005-05-31/news/25051963_1_sisters-william-e-brown-frick/2.

² “Wayne Nicarry: A Giant for Elizabethtown College,” *Elizabethtown Magazine*, Summer, 2005, accessed November 16, 2017. https://archive.org/stream/elizabethtown2005eliz_1#page/n0/mode/2up

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.