

Elizabethtown College 125th Anniversary
National Historic Preservation Trust This Place Matters Campaign & Campus Historic Building Survey
Based on the National Parks Service Historic American Building Survey
2024 Summer Creative Arts and Research Program SCARP
Ava Barton Class of 2027
Jean-Paul Benowitz, Director of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships and Public Heritage Studies



Wayne A. Nicarry (1919 – 2005)

Reverend Wayne A. Nicarry was born on December 15, 1919, in Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Harry S. and Margie (Hartman) Nicarry. “He was a member of the Church of the Brethren and served as a minister in the Church of the Brethren since 1944, having served in various capacities in the Southern District of Pennsylvania. Also, he was one of the three founders of Grove Manufacturing of Shady Grove, Pa., and retired as president of Grove Worldwide in 1985.

Rev. Nicarry served on the Elizabethtown College board of trustees for 31 years and was chairman of the board for seven years. He received his honorary doctorate degree from Elizabethtown College and up until his death, he was serving as a trustee emeritus.

He and his wife, Frances O. (Oberholzer) Nicarry, were married September 22, 1939. She died on April 14, 2000.¹

Below is an excerpt from a newspaper article written about them after they were wed:

“Nicarry - Oberholzer”

“Miss Frances Oberholzer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Oberholzer of Greencastle, R.R. 1, And Wayne A Nicarry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nicarry of Chambersburg, R.R. 5, were united in marriage yesterday in a ceremony performed by the bridegroom’s brother, Rev. S. Omar Nicarry, at the latter’s home in Guilford Springs. Members of the bridegroom’s family were present. The bride is employed by the Gem Garment Company of Greencastle. The bridegroom is a graduate of the Chambersburg High School, class of

¹ “Rev Wayne A. Nicarry,” Find a Grave, accessed June 27, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11068623/wayne-a-nicarry>.

Elizabethtown College 125th Anniversary
National Historic Preservation Trust This Place Matters Campaign & Campus Historic Building Survey
Based on the National Parks Service Historic American Building Survey
2024 Summer Creative Arts and Research Program SCARP
Ava Barton Class of 2027
Jean-Paul Benowitz, Director of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships and Public Heritage Studies

1936, and is employed by the John McShain Construction Company at Washington D.C. For the present, Mr. and Mrs. Nicarry will reside at the home of the bride.²”

Wayne A. Nicarry was chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1991-96.³ On February 2, 2000, at the centennial celebration, Wayne A. Nicarry was bestowed the Centennial Medal for helping to make the history of Elizabethtown College.⁴ On October 11, 1968, Wayne A. Nicarry and Mrs. Nicarry contributed \$500,000 in support of Elizabethtown College.⁵ It was the single largest gift received by the College up until that time.⁶ On May 5, 1973, a new social sciences building was needed and “a two-story structure was planned that would house the departments of education, sociology, political science, and the new Center for Business Studies. This would later be known as Nicarry Hall in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Nicarry.”⁷



Wayne Nicarry was also the last surviving co-founder and past president of Grove Manufacturing of Shady Grove.

“Nicarry teamed up with Dwight Grove and John L Grove in 1946 to build farm wagons in a rented garage. When the enterprise was formalised in 1947 Wayne Nicarry, whose signature was on the original partnership agreement, dated January 1, 1947, became the company’s first treasurer and administrative officer. The three went on to build a hydraulic yard crane which developed into Groves main business. By the early 70’s Grove led the crane market, having overtaken all of the long established traditional crane companies, such as Lorain, P&H, American and others. Nicarry was the only founder to remain after Kidde bought the company in 1968 and made Martin Benchoff president and CEO. Nicarry assumed the role of executive vice president of manufacturing operations. In 1981 he was

² “Wayne Augusta Nicarry and Frances M Oberholzer Wed,” *Public Opinion*, September 23, 1939, <https://www.newspapers.com/article/public-opinion-wayne-augusta-nicarry-and/132553367/>.

³ Chet Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown, PA, Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 341.

⁴ Williamson, 224-225.

⁵ Jean-Paul Benowitz, and Peter J DePuydt, *Elizabethtown College*. (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 28.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 217.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 262.

promoted to President and General manager, and was chief executive at the time he retired in 1985. After his retirement he still put in daily appearances at the Shady Grove offices as a consultant. In his private life Nicarry was a lay preacher, a minister in the church of the Brethren and was known as the Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Nicarry.”

Reverend Wayne A. Nicarry died on May 29, 2005, at age 85. He is buried at Parklawns Memorial Gardens in Franklin County.⁸

Bibliography

Benowitz, Jean-Paul. *Elizabethtown College: The Campus History Series*. Charleston, S. C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2014.

_____. *Elizabethtown: Images of America*. Charleston, S. C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2015.

Bowman, Carl F. *Brethren Society: The Transformation of A Peculiar People*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.

Durnbaugh, Donald F. ed., *Brethren Encyclopedia* 4 vols. Philadelphia, PA: The Brethren Encyclopedia, Inc. 1983-2005.

_____. *Fruit of the Vine: A History of the Brethren, 1708-1995*. Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 1997.

Falkenstein, George N. *The Organization and the Early History of Elizabethtown College*. Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown College, 1937.

History of the Church of the Brethren of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania: By The Committee Appointed by District Conference. Lancaster, PA: Press of the New Era Printing Company, 1915.

History of the Church of the Brethren of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1915-1965. Lancaster, PA: Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1965.

MacMaster, Richard K. *Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries*. Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown Historical Society, 1999.

⁸ “Rev Wayne A. Nicarry,” Find a Grave, accessed June 27, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11068623/wayne-a-nicarry>.

Elizabethtown College 125th Anniversary
National Historic Preservation Trust This Place Matters Campaign & Campus Historic Building Survey
Based on the National Parks Service Historic American Building Survey
2024 Summer Creative Arts and Research Program SCARP
Ava Barton Class of 2027
Jean-Paul Benowitz, Director of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships and Public Heritage Studies

Schlosser, Ralph W. *History of Elizabethtown College: 1899-1970*. Elizabethtown, PA:
Elizabethtown College, 1971.

Williamson, Chet. *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College*.
Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown College, 2001.