Since its founding in 1991, South Carolina Political Collections has worked to document the rise of the Republican Party in South Carolina and its early leaders. It has been successful in acquiring significant manuscripts collections and currently holds the papers of the Party itself, dating back to 1932, early leaders such as Charles Boineau, Drake Edens, James B. Edwards, Kenneth Powell, Joseph Rogers, Gregory Shorey, Floyd Spence and William Workman, and current office holders such as Lindsey Graham, Mark Sanford, David Wilkins, and Joe Wilson. A program of oral history interviews is ongoing. Designed to supplement the documentary record, interviews have already been conducted with a number of former Party chairmen and several early Party activists.

The work in gathering materials and preparing them for use by journalists, scholars and others studying this, the single most important transformation in the political landscape of the South, is labor intensive. Staff members at the University Libraries are working with several party leaders to develop an endowment to support the work of South Carolina Political Collections with Republican holdings. Specifically, the endowment will help to fund student assistants to help arrange and describe collections, preservation measures to ensure the viability of materials in the collections, and outreach efforts such as exhibits and publications designed to encourage research on the history of the Party and its members and leaders.

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Tax deductible gifts to support this documentation project may be made to: “The University of South Carolina Educational Foundation” and mailed to:

Library Development (Attention: Stephanie Learner)
Thomas Cooper Library
The University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

( Please note on check “For Acct. #A11092,” which refers to the Republican Endowment to Support South Carolina Political Collections )

The Library is always looking for leads to collections and delighted to answer questions about its programs. Inquiries about South Carolina Political Collections and its work in documenting the Party may be addressed to:

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