

*South Carolina Political Collections*  
*The University of South Carolina*

**Erminie M. and John T. Nave**  
*(b. 1923) & (b. 1921)*  
**Papers, 1916-1998**

Volume: 1.25 feet

Processed: 1997, by Charles Rector; 1998 & 2008 additions processed by H.J. Hartsook

Provenance: Donated by Erminie M. and John T. Nave

Citation Form: Erminie M. and John T. Nave Papers, South Carolina Political Collections,  
The University of South Carolina

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**Biographical Note:**

Erminie McKnight Nave (b.1923) and her husband John Thomas Nave (b.1921) were active leaders in Republican politics from the 1960s to the early 1990s, chiefly in Greenwood County but also at the district and state levels. Mrs. Nave, a Florence native, served as chair of the Greenwood County Republican Party from 1988 to 1989. Prior to that, she served as chair of the Third District Republican Party, 1984 to 1985 and 1986 to 1987. She is also the author of *A History of the Republican Party in Greenwood County*. Published in 1996, her book provides a detailed chronology of the development of the Republican Party in Greenwood County between 1958 and 1993. John T. Nave (b.1921), a Tennessee native and former pilot with Abney Mills, served as Mayor of Greenwood from 1967 to 1971 and 1986 to 1994, Greenwood County Republican Party chairman, 1964 to 1967 and 1976-1977, and as state executive committeeman, from 1978-1986. The Nave Papers chiefly reflect their involvement in local and state Party affairs.

The Naves became politically active in the early 1960s, when the Republican Party was developing across South Carolina. Their efforts focused on grass-roots activities aimed at building the Greenwood County Republican Party. In her acceptance remarks following her 1988 election as county chair, Mrs. Nave noted—"Much progress and growth has taken place in the Greenwood County Republican Party since the mid-60s when I first became an active participant. Credit is due to a number of persons who held the Party together when the 'going was rough' and to many others who through their persistence and perseverance over the years have constantly worked to build a viable two-party political system in Greenwood County."

**Scope and Content Note:**

The Erminie M. and John Nave Collection consists of 1.25 linear feet of papers, chiefly 1964-1973 and 1980-1993. The collection principally relates to Republican Party activities in Greenwood County, South Carolina. It also documents political activities in the city of Greenwood, the Third Congressional District of South Carolina, and the state of South Carolina, and John Nave's mayoral campaigns. Little relates to statewide Republican candidacies, national politics, or the Naves' personal lives.

The collection is arranged in six series. The bulk of the collection falls under series for Elections, 1964-1992, and Republican Party, 1958-1993. The latter is broken down into sub-series for the Party in Greenwood, Greenwood County, the Third Congressional District, and South Carolina. A copy of Nave's book is filed within this series. The other series consist of General Papers, 1916-c.1993; Mailing Lists; Photographs; and Newspaper Clippings, 1958-1996. Much of the material related to the Republican Party is derived from the Naves' committee service.

Of particular interest are Mrs. Nave's history of the Greenwood County Republican Party and a brochure from the early 1960s attacking the "loyalty oath" that bound all those who voted in the South Carolina Democratic primaries to vote for the Democratic nominees in the general elections. A 1916 document lists the South Carolina Republican Party's Electoral College slate.

**Box Inventory:**

General Papers, 1916-c.1998 & n.d.

Elections:

1964

1965, Greenwood

1967, Greenwood

1968

1969, Greenwood

1971, Greenwood County

1972 [Republican Platform, adopted Aug. 22, 1972 at National Convention]

1976 [Republican National Convention roll of delegates and program]

1980:

Primaries

Republican National Convention

General Elections

1982

1986, Greenwood [includes 1986 General Elections]

1988:

Primaries

Republican National Convention

General Elections

1990:

Greenwood

Primaries

Wayne Richey Campaign

General Elections

1992

n.d.

Misc.

Republican Party:

Greenwood, 1965-1991

Greenwood County:

1958-1964

1968

1969

1970-1971

1974

1975

1976

1977-1979

1980

1982-1986

1987

1988 [2]

1989

1990

1991

1992

1993 and n.d.

*A History of the Republican Party in Greenwood County* [2 copies; 1 annotated]

South Carolina:

1969-1987

1988

1989

1991

1992

1993

n.d.

Third Congressional District, 1974-1991 & n.d.

Mailing Lists

Photographs

Newspaper Clippings:

1958-1964 [see also oversize bound scrapbook, 1964]

1966-1969

1970-1979

1980-1989

1990-1996

Oversize Bound Scrapbook, 1964 [stored atop box]