A Resisting Reader’s Guide to Tales of the Congaree
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Dr. Edward C. L. Adams was a white country doctor, farmer, and folklorist who published two collections of African-American tales and ballads in 1927 and 1928—later combined as Tales of the Congaree (1987)—in which narrators Thaddeus Goodson and Scipio Shiver, along with a chorus of “we,” provide humorous, hard-nosed commentary on barely-disguised stories of those living in and around the swamps of Lower Richland County (now home to Congaree National Park) from “slavery times” through Jim Crow. Dr. Rhonda Grego will provide historical and archival context as we sample these Tales, listen to a 1939 WPA recording of Thaddeus Goodson, and consider questions raised by Adams’s work about writing race and resistance.

Please direct any questions or comments regarding the series to Brent Burgin at 803-313-7063 or wbburgin@sc.edu. Mr. Burgin welcomes suggestions and ideas for future talks and speakers.

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