

Marmaduke Floyd photographed the cabin complex during a January 1929 hunting trip - one photo shows Uncle Billy Spaulding's chicken yard, his house, guide shacks, Hebard cabin, and boathouse. Other photos are of Spaulding, the cabin, traps, and guides Gad Rodenberry and Hamp Colson. Hebard fed, as well as hunted, the ducks. In 1929, he fed them 600 bushels of corn. A small shed, the "Corn Box," was built at the inlet into Chase Prairie from the north fork of Suwanee Canal to store the corn brought by boat from Camp Cornelia. The 1981 drought exposed the Corn Box's floor resting on the peat in the prairie about 50 meters from the Canal. A latticed walkway from one of Hebard's duck blinds crosses the Refuge's canoe trail a few hundred meters north of the Corn Box.

Spaulding was hired by Hebard as caretaker in 1925. He lived in seclusion allegedly to escape his wife and family. His solitude was interrupted by occasional visits by Hebard employees bringing supplies, newspapers, and duck food and rare visits by the Hebards and their friends. Hebard paid him a small salary and permitted him to trap and fish. Spaulding's summer activities included tending his garden, flock of chickens, and pigs. W. L. Chancy's suggestion that he needed feminine company was greeted with derision - "That's exactly what I don't need. I get along all right with my chickens, garden and trapping and fishing, and I love to read. I'm not lonely or lonesome, and I've found out that where women are there is usually trouble. No, I don't want any woman in here." Spaulding originally came to the Swamp as a timber girdler and apparently was employed as one for around 16 or 17 years until 1925. His cabin was 10 feet by 20 feet. Nearby were his chickens and vegetable garden. His watermelon patch was 1.25 miles away at Kay Tatum's old mule shed. Spaulding left the island shortly after the creation of the Refuge in 1937.

Between 1927-1937, the edges of the Swamp were gleaned for timber by small lumber companies; the Swamp's interior and Floyds Island served as the Hebard family hunting preserve. Hunting, trapping, and fishing provided subsistence and cash for many of the Swamp's inhabitants. The Hebard Lumber Company did not charge for fishing or hunting privileges on their holdings. The company granted Hamp Mizell such privileges in return for his "protection of the property" on the west side of the Hebard holdings. He sold trapping privileges as well as operated a boat rental business on Billys Lake. Trappers took raccoons, otters, wild cats, skunks, and alligators. John Hopkins stated that "duck hunting was well worth the preparation, hardships and time required of the sportsman." Deer was hunted on a number of the Swamp's islands, including Floyds Island, using dogs (Photo 7). Daniel Hebard kept shooting records of his and guests' takes from 1926-1936. Frederick V. Hebard published a summary of the waterfowl and game bird takes in his 1941 article, "Winter Birds of the Okefenokee and Coleraine."

Conservation Efforts and Scientific Research

Roland M. Harper began to push for recognition of the value of the Okefenokee Swamp and other wetlands in 1908 and 1909. He heralded the importance of wetlands as headwaters for streams, refuges for wildlife against extermination by hunters, laboratories for research on natural resources, and for their beauty. The Okefenokee Society was organized in 1919 to promote efforts to create a preserve. The Georgia Society of Naturalists launched a campaign in 1929 to persuade the federal government to acquire the Swamp as a wildlife preserve. Between 1912-22 and in 1954, several teams of Cornell University biologists conducted scientific investigations in Okefenokee. In 1915, S.W. McCallie, the State Geologist, explored the Swamp and Floyds Island (Photo 1). Francis Harper conducted research from 1912 until 1959. The Georgia Society of Naturalists focused on the natural history of the Swamp during 1930s.

In 1902, Roland M. Harper and P. L. Ricker conducted a botanical survey of the Suwanee Canal and Bugaboo Island. A Cornell University biological survey team visited Floyds Island in 1912. Albert H. Wright, a member of the Cornell survey team, collected turtles, snakes, and birds. Francis Harper visited Billys Island, Suwanee Canal, and Chesser Island in 1916 and Floyd's Island in 1917. Harper photographed and recorded the island's vegetation. His photographs were used by the Okefenokee Society in 1919 to promote the preservation of the Swamp as a government reservation. Harper, in a 1920 *Natural History* article, argued that Floyds Island should serve as a nucleus of a wilderness area. The island was described as "the most diversified, and in some respects the most interesting of all the islands." Conservation concerns were heightened by 1922 as other areas of the Swamp with commercial yields of timber began to be harvested.

The Okefenokee Society, organized in 1919, sought to establish or acquire a preserve of "pristine wilderness" on and around Floyds Island in response to the extensive logging occurring throughout the Swamp. Their efforts received little public support and foundered after the death of Dr. J. F. Wilson of Waycross, the Society's secretary. The Okefenokee Swamp Association under direction of Dr. George McDonnell, was also unable to sustain much interest in conservation of the Swamp in the 1920s. Francis Harper, attempting to save Floyds Island as a wilderness area, also failed to prevent the extension of the logging railroad to it and its subsequent logging.