

But the Okefinokee Society lost its way in 1921. Dr. J.F. Wilson died. J.M. Reade of Athens was selected to serve as President, but the spirit and the commitment was gone. Charles J. Haden of Atlanta attempted to sustain interest in the project, but the Society without Dr. Wilson's enthusiasm lost contact with its members and passed away.¹¹

George N. McDonnell and C.N. Wilson, J.F. Wilson's son, formed a new conservation society in August 1922 known as the Okefenokee National Association or the Okefenokee National Reserve Association. But it lacked support. Charles J. Haden, Philip C. Wakely, H.A. Stallings, C.N. Wilson, and G.N. McDonnell wrote letters to newspapers promoting the creation of a national park in the Okefenokee Swamp, but they could not sustain the drive. The organization did keep alive the idea of preservation through the 1920s, even though its efforts lacked focus. Individuals, including Francis Harper, C.N. Wilson, D.G. Bickers, Samuel Scoville, and groups such as the Federation of Bird Clubs of New England and the Miami Society for the Preservation of the Okefenokee, continued their conservation efforts. They made little headway in their own plans to get the Federal government to buy the Hebard property, but they were able to voice opposition to plans to build a water reservoir or dig a canal across the Swamp.¹²

Lumber companies had cut out most of the profitable stands of timber in the swamp and on the islands by 1926. Even the pines on Floyds Island north of the Hammock were cut in 1925. The Council Lumber Company, Twin Tree Lumber Company, and Braganza Lumber Company closed their mills and moved from the Okefenokee in 1926. Hebard Cypress Company vacated their logging camp on Billys Island the same year and moved north near Hopkins to finish cutting the timber near Dinner Pond. They ceased all logging operations and closed their mill at Hebardville in 1927.¹³

¹¹ Francis Harper to Roland M. Harper, March 6, 1922; July 16, 1922; Charles J. Haden to Savannah Morning News, "Okefinokee Society Project," February 20, 1922; C.J. Haden to New York Times, June 22, 1922.

¹²Waycross Journal-Herald, August 7, 1922; November 22, 1926; December 6, 1926; December 8, 1926; September 29, 1927; January 2, 1928. Philip C. Wakely to New York Times, June 28, 1922. Samuel Scoville, "Trembling Earth," Atlantic Monthly, October 1928, 489-495. Savannah Morning News, September 5, 1923; July 13, 1924; July 27, 1924.

¹³ C.T. Trowell and Lorraine Fussell, Exploring the Okefenokee: Railroads of the Okefenokee Realm, Occasional Paper from South Georgia