

Table 2. Estimated Harvest by Lumber Companies, 1908-1927.

Product	Amount
Cypress	325,000,000 feet
Pine	98,000,000 feet
Red Bay	450,000 feet
Swamp Black Gum	50,000 feet
White Bay	25,000 feet
Maple	35,000 feet
Live Oak	35,000 feet
Sweet Gum	5,000 feet
Total	423,600,000 feet
Cypress Crossties	700,000
Spirits of Turpentine	12,000 barrels
Rosin	30,000 barrels

Miles of temporary spur lines ran from the main rail line into profitable stands of cypress timber. After numerous attempts at different methods of construction, the company found that driving piling 16-21 feet long worked best. Steam-powered Lidgerwood overhead skidders moved the harvested logs to areas adjacent to the spur lines. Cranes mounted on rail cars loaded the logs onto flatbeds (Photos 2-5).

Cypress in the timber bay east of Floyds Island was cut between 1923-1926. The Hebard Cypress Company employed Cary "Kay" Tatum and Ray Kinlaw to cut and haul the pines to the railroad with their mules and timber carts. In 1922, the Hebard's logging railroad extended to Floyds Island. Over the next two years, spur lines were built into the cypress bays around the south end of the island. One extended eastward from the island across the bay between Chase Prairie and Territory Prairie. The cypress timber around the island was exhausted by 1925. The Hebard Cypress Company logged the longleaf pines on the island north of the hammock in 1925. The pines on the hammock were cut that same year. The company spent almost two years gleaning stands along the railroad that they had bypassed over the years. It ceased logging operations and closed the Hebardville mill in 1927. The company relinquished their lease to the Hebard Lumber Company in 1929.

In 1929, Hebard Lumber Company registered their lands in the Okefenokee. They sold timber, turpentine, and crosstie leases to a number of companies until 1936. Most of these were along the eastern rim of the Swamp.

The Hebard Camp - Hunting and Uncle Billy

The Hebard Camp was built in 1925 prior to the removal of the logging rail lines. The Hebard family spent several weeks duck hunting and fishing each year staying at the Floyds Island camp until 1935. Hopkins and T. H. Colson often accompanied the family, the latter serving as a hunting guide. Other guides included Harry Chesser and Gad Rodenberry. The Hebard's interest in the Swamp's conservation took seed during these hunting trips. The cabin served as a major stopover for scientists conducting research on the Swamp's biota as well as congressional delegations examining potential wildlife preserves (see below). Local groups sometimes picnicked on the island. Billy Spaulding was employed as a caretaker from 1925-1937. One writer described Spaulding as "Georgia's loneliest man."

Floyds Island was reached by pole boat from the end of the Suwanee Canal across Floyds Island Prairie. On the east side of the island, a logging spur line ran approximately 4,000 feet to the edge of Chase Prairie. The rails had been removed from trestles - two piles topped with a cross-tie - after the cypress and loblolly bay was cut. The Hebard's constructed a narrow boardwalk on the abandoned trestles in 1926. They also blasted a shallow boat run parallel to the boardwalk at the same time. A small storage platform and shed was erected at the Chase Prairie end.