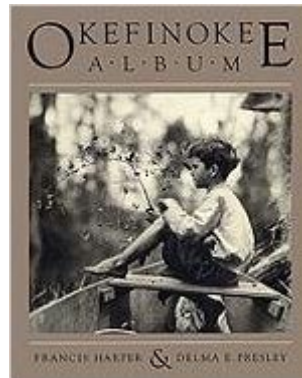


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Okefinokee Album (Brown Thrasher Books Ser.)



Synopsis

Based on the photographs and writings of Francis Harper, a naturalist who visited the Okefinokee Swamp repeatedly between 1912 and 1951, Okefinokee Album recalls life in the "land of trembling earth" before the outside world encroached in the 1940s. Filled with profiles of the swamp dwellers, their wisdom, superstitions, songs, stories, and folkways, as well as a wealth of information about the natural history of the swamp, Okefinokee Album richly documents a vanished age and the heritage of a remarkable people.

Book Information

Series: Brown Thrasher Books Ser.

Paperback: 212 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

A tantalizing sampler that manages to capture the mystique of the swamp and its former inhabitants (Journal of American Folklore)Marvelous, candid photos out of time itself . . . The photographs are worth the price of admission. Not to mention the 'Swamp Talk' vocabulary that is itemized, the wonderful ballads, stories of the conjure doctor, and plain tales that embellish the serious documentary with the art of life (Southern Living)Harper did an invaluable service in capturing the Okefinokee's peculiar brand of culture before it began to decline in the 1930s. The expression 'rare treat' is overused but perfectly accurate with regard to this abridgement of Harper's work (Booklist)

Francis Harper first visited the swamp in 1912 as a member of a biological survey team from Cornell University and returned many times over the next four decades. He wrote a wide range of books

and articles on natural history and folklore, including a naturalist's edition of "The Travels of William Bartram." Harper died in 1972, before he had finished assembling his material on the Okefinokee. Delma E. Presley, a professor of English at Georgia Southern University, prepared "Okefinokee Album" for publication.

This is a magnificent book. It tells the story of a special place and the people who live there. Southern Crackers are often maligned for ignorance and bigotry, but the people observed and recorded here deserve great credit for understanding the natural beauty of their surroundings and for creating a lifestyle that used what nature offered without abusing it. Fortunately, Francis Harper, the naturalist and the author, took a lifelong interest in the Okefenokee. Thanks to him, the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is protected and available for all of us to appreciate, and thanks to this book, we can appreciate the people who lived in and around the swamp back in the days before strip malls, chain stores, communication gadgets and other intrusions. You do not have to be a naturalist to enjoy this beautiful book. If you read it, you will have a much greater understanding of a very special place.

Excellent source.

That's my grandfather as a little boy on the cover - and that's all I have to say about that.

This book contains much information on some of the early settlers of the Okefenokee Swamp - focusing on families that resided in Charlton County, GA. Many pictures are included as well as folk stories, local legends and songs, and even a swamp vocabulary section. This book is a must for those researching this area.

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