

Louisa Shelby McCrabb was the wife of Alexander McCrabb, who died in Montgomery County, TN. Louisa was the daughter of John Shelby (b. 1725 MD, d. 1794 Washington Co. VA) and his wife Louisa **Looney** (b. 1728, Isle of Mann). Louisa Looney was a sister of Absalom Looney (b. 1729 Ireland, d. 1791 VA). Her father was Robert Looney (b. 1692, d. 1769), who operated “Looney’s Mill” in Augusta County, VA. During Louisa Shelby McCrabb’s lifetime on the pre-arsenal lands, there was another Absalom Looney and a John W. Looney (cousins of Louisa) who lived on pre-arsenal land. John W. Looney had land and until 1834 operated a “Looney’s Mill” just barely over a mile to the west of the Lanier Cemetery, where Louisa is buried. (Looney lands and Lanier lands were adjoining.) This mill was on the west side of the junction of what today is known as Huntsville Spring Branch with Indian Creek, according to the legal land description in the deed of sale. (See below.) The property and the mill (to be destroyed) were purchased by Thomas Fearn and others of the consortium that was formed in Huntsville to create the short-lived Indian Creek Canal. This canal was operated under the name of the Indian Creek Navigation Company to carry cotton from Big Spring in Huntsville to the Tennessee River for shipment downriver to markets in New Orleans.

