

was established by Thomas Fearn and his brother, who dredged the Spring Branch from Huntsville to its confluence with Indian Creek at Looney's Mill. This established the Indian Creek Navigation Canal, which enabled paddlewheel steamboats to pick up cotton at Looney's Landing, as the site became known. While it was the Fearn's enterprise that killed the planned town of Liberty, they also entered into land transactions with Alfred Howell, who likewise was involved in the acquisition of the Looney tract for the Navigation Company.

