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 Fearns' 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.

John W Looney & wife
Thomas & George Fearne
Rewell & Fatteson

This indenture wade this twenty first day of November one thousand eight hundred and thirty four between John w Looney of the County of Madison and State of Alabana of the one part and Thomas Fearn and George Fearn partners tracing under the Style of Thomas & George Fearn and Alfred Kowell and Thomas Fatteson partners the other part. Witnesseth; That the said John W Looney for and in consideration of the sum of Two thousand nine hundred dollars to him in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged both this day bargained, sold, aliened enfected and conveyed and by these presents not bargain, sell, alien enfected and conveyed and by these presents not bargain, sell, alien enfected and conveyed and by these presents doth bargain, sell, alien enfect and convey to the maid Thomas & George Fearn and Howell & Fatteson all that certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in said County of Madison usually known as his said Looneys Mill tract being the west half of the borth west quarter of Section twelve in Township five of Fange two west of the Basis Meridian and the west quarter of same Section Township and mange together with the Mill, Mill house \_\_\_chinery warehouse or warehouses outhouses with all improvements privilegges rights tenements and hereditaments to the same beloning or in anywise appertaining. To have and to hold the above described premises with the tenements and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise belonging or appertaining unto the said Thomas & George Fearn and Howell & Patteson (that is to said Thomas & George Fearn one undivided half, and to the maid Howell & Patteson the other undivided half) there heirs and assigns forever: And the said John W Looney for himself his heirs executors and administrators doth warrant and will forever defen the title to the above described and hereby granted