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From Slavery To Freedom And Success Sandy Cornish and Lillah Cornish (circa 1793-1869) - (circa 1813-1870's)

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Trapped in the institution of slavery in the first half of the 19th Century, Sandy and Lillah Cornish migrated from the area of Cambridge, Maryland to Florida, through their labor freeing themselves from the bonds of slavery, and eventually locating in Key West where they achieved success and respect and lived out the remainder of their lives.

The Cornish¹⁷ name is well known to Black history and relatively common in the area of eastern Maryland and Delaware. Samuel Cornish, who was born free in Delaware in 1795, "was the first black man to undergo the normal exacting training and testing procedures required of Presbyterian ordination... After being licensed to preach, Cornish spent six months as a missionary to slaves on the eastern shore of Maryland". He later founded the first Black Presbyterian Church in New York City, and was the first African-American journalist.¹⁸

Joshua Cornish, born about 1790, immigrated to Liberia with his family in June 1835, and won awards for best farming. In 1842, he returned and recruited other members of his race for an immigration to Liberia.²⁰

Other than general areas of birth, ethnic origin, and the fact that in time they were contemporaries, there is no known connection between Samuel, Joshua and Sandy Cornish. All were born in the last



Uncle Sandie from "After The War", Whitelaw Reid; Moore, Wilsbach & Baldwin, 1866. Engraved for the book by W.G. Jackman.

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