

Lowell National Historical Park

Women Working for Change



AN INTERESTING SLAVE CASE IN LOWELL. —
We learn by an advertisement copy of the Lowell
Vox Populi, that a case of much interest
has been pending for several days,
the particulars being given :

"Jesse Cornwell, of Mississippi, had a daughter, Betsy, who was in a relation of house cohabited. She was a daughter of an old, smart, capricious looking. Her name was on his death-bed, he entrusted his friend Dr. D. to the charge of his effects, including a sum of money; and especially charged him soon as he could arrange so to do the woman Betsy and his and her line to a free State and there to be located. For this purpose he directed to take \$500 which

Betsy Cornwell
1805-?

BETSY CORNWELL

Six years after their emancipation in Mississippi, Betsy Cornwell and her daughter Caroline arrived in Lowell and finally secured their freedom. The man trusted to lead them north to start a new life instead betrayed them, stole their money, and hired them out to work. Risking everything, Betsy met with a lawyer who fought for her freedom and her \$4,000 inheritance. Betsy lived in Lowell the rest of her life and built community with other free people.

What would you do for freedom?

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