

By MILBURN COCKRELL Editor of The Baptist Examiner

John Corbly was born in England in 1733 near London and came to America at the age of 14. Corbly eventually made his way to Winchester, Virginia, where he married Abigail Bull. Soon after their marriage they moved to Berkeley County. They had four children: Margaret, Rachel, Priscilla, and John Jr. Mrs. Corbly died in 1768.

The violence of persecution drove this Baptist minister from the "old dominion" in 1768 into the southwestern portion of Pennsylvania, then a mere wilderness. Corbly remarried in 1773 to Elizabeth Tyler. They had five children: Delilah, Elizabeth, Isaiah, Mary, and Nancy.

According to the minutes of September 1775, of the Great Bethel Baptist Church of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, Elder John Corbly, who after suffering persecution and imprisonment in the Culpepper (Virginia) jail at the hands of the established church for preaching the doctrine of soul liberty and believer's baptism came to this section prior to 1771, and was known as the ablest preacher of his time.

In Pennsylvania he assisted in planting Baptist churches. John ton, a native of New Jersey,