

[Eric Weber](#)

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Today is the birth anniversary of very early Williamsburg physician **Dr. Elijah Paine** (1724-1814), b. Pomfret, CT; m. probably ca. 1750/51, Mary White (1729-1804), b. Hatfield, d. Wmsb.

Elijah apparently came as a young man to Hatfield, and there met his wife and settled down to raise a family. Their first home in what later became Williamsburg was on Village Hill across the road from where the first meetinghouse was built starting in 1778, perhaps close to the road on the upper part of Bruce Hart and Ilene Goldstein's present lot.

Dr. Paine's medical training must surely have been primitive and very spotty. It appears from his [surviving personal account book](#) or ledger, now housed at Meekins Library, that in 1785-6 he built the present MacLeod house at 16 Old Goshen Road, where he lived for the rest of his life. The account book shows that in addition to treating his neighbors' ailments (in ways we now find quite alarming!), he was also a tavern keeper and multifaceted businessman, doing a brisk barter trade with his neighbors and fellow townsmen in almost every commodity and service then in general use, from foodstuffs, potash and timber to teamstering and manual labor.