

Drinking and Gambling, 1803

From Ulysses P. Joyner, Jr., Orange County Court Clerk in an article for the Orange County Historical Society, Inc. *Newsletter*:

"We the Grand Jury, present Nathaniel Gordon for not keeping rates set up in his house for six months last past and also for retailing spirituous liquors without license and drink where sold. The information of John White and John Herndon.

"We also present Paul Verdier for ditto; also present Gilbert H. Hamilton, and Z. Herndon, Thomas Bell, Paul Verdier for unlawful gaming at Paul Verdier's tavern [town of Orange] within six months last past from the information of John Brock.

"Also present James Madison, G.L. Grasty, John Burnley, Willis White, Edmund Terrill, William Hamilton, John Pollack, William Terrill, Reuben Hamilton, George Hughes, Charles Bell, Thomas Barbour, Jr., William Thomas Davison for unlawful gaming within six months last past at Paul Verdier's tavern.

"Abner Newman, G.L. Grasty, John Brock, John White, Foreman. And the said Grand Jury having nothing further to present; Ordered that they be discharged. (Orange County Order Book April 1803)

"Note: Drinking and gambling were apparently problems in 1803 also. The names indicated the offences were prevalent among the most prominent citizens of the County occurring mostly at the tavern operated by Nathaniel Gordon at Gordonsville and at the tavern of Paul Verdier located across from the courthouse in Orange. Needless to say, there were few convictions on the charges brought by the Grand Jury."¹

¹ Ulysses P. Joyner, Jr., "Orange County Courthouse Notes," *Orange County Historical Society, Inc. Newsletter*, Volume 32, Number 1 (January/February, 2001), 4.