

The Evening Star, August 29, 1873, p. 1
The Wawaset Commission Report
What the Commission Recommend

The Star reporter from an incidental conversation with those who have read the report of the Treasury commission to investigate the Wawaset disaster has arrived at the following conclusions concerning:

1st. It recommends the prosecution of the Potomac Ferry company for employing in their service a captain and mate known to them to be unlicensed officers, and in flagrant violation of the existing rules governing the steamboat service of the United States. It also condemns them for allowing either the officers or crew of the Wawaset to engage as hucksters in the traffic of melons, fruits, vegetables, etc., the products of the Virginia and Maryland shores.

2d. It recommends the prosecution of Captain Woods and the mate, Mr. Gravitt, for accepting and serving in their respective positions in violation of the steamboat law, holding that ignorance in either case is no excuse. It is understood, too, to recommend the revocation of the license of the engineer for engaging in business as a trader, and for his failing to apply such means as were at his command to check the course of the fire. The officers are also condemned for not making an attempt to distribute the life-preservers and lower the metallic life boat; also for failing to have a fire organization.

The commission will report that in their opinion the origin of the fire is shrouded in mystery.