

The Evening Star, August 19, 1873, p. 4
Another Victim of the Wawaset Identified

Last evening, a colored man, named Wiggins, living across the Eastern Branch, called at The Star office to get some further particulars about his father, J.H. Wiggins, who was lost on the Wawaset. His attention had been called to the following paragraph in the special correspondence of The Star from the scene of the disaster, in our issue of Monday, August 11th.

“About 2 o’clock the body of an elderly colored man was towed in near Chatterton, dressed in gray pants, black coat and vest. In one of his vest pockets was found a white cambric handkerchief carefully folded; a red leather pocket-book was found in his pants, in which were ten one dollar bills; also, a letter directed to Samuel Bailey, Northumberland county, Va., signed by J.H. Wiggins. The letter appeared to have been torn open, and related business matters, but was so badly written that it could not be deciphered. It is most likely his name was Bailey.”

The body here described was undoubtedly that of Wiggins, senior, his son asserts, as he has personal knowledge of the pocket-book and its contents and wrote the letter in possession of his father, who was dressed as described.