THE MARYLAND STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY PAPERS

William D. Hoyt, Jr., (revised)

I. *Minutes*

A. Records of the Meetings of the Board of Managers
1. February 1831 – December 1831
2. March 1832 – December 1834
3. January 1835 – June 1838
4. June 1838 – October 1851
5. February 1852 – April 1864
6. November 1864 – November 1902

The *Records* provide a full history of the administration of the Maryland State Colonization Society and are an excellent source of information on the colony in Liberia. Volume 1 contains the organization records of the Colonization Society, and includes an interesting report by Dr. Ayres, agent of the group, on his trip to the various counties of the state to form branch societies. Volume 2 has a copy of the Ordinance for the government of Maryland in Liberia, showing the administrative set-up there; and has a copy of the deed for the land in Africa, giving the price paid in terms of muskets, kegs of powder, cloth, kettles, hats, beads, iron pots, looking glasses, knives, jugs, pitchers, bowls, fish hooks, scissors, etc. Volume 3 has the Third Annual Report of the Board of Managers, giving an interesting detailed account of the first settlement at Cape Palmas. It reflects the steps taken to raise funds, even to the extent that each member of the Board sold a certain number of Oratorio tickets for the benefit of the colonization project. Numerous other reports throw light on the early history of the movement and the colony. Volume 4 includes the Seventh Annual Report, which discusses fully the social and economic problems at Cape Palmas, as do all succeeding reports. A circular distributed among the people of Baltimore in 1841 seems to indicate that some colonization business was transacted at saloons. This book concludes with the Ordinance providing for the maintenance of 'Public Worship' in Liberia. Volume 5, like all the minute books, has a vast amount of correspondence relating to colonial affairs, reports, instructions, etc., not included in the regular letter books. There is also a copy of the Articles of Agreement between the Colonization Society and