in proportion; and at last the members of the auxiliary Society became satisfied that unless more efficient measures were taken, the object for which they had originally united; that is the removal of the free colored population of Maryland, was hopeless of accomplishment. Under this conviction, it was determined to form a new Society, still however auxiliary to the objects of the Parent Society, called the "Maryland State Colonization Society" which would undertake the removal of the free colored population of Maryland [the State] at expence to the Society at Washington: and to accomplish this, to appropriate the collections made in Maryland exclusively to the purpose. Upon these principles a Society was accordingly formed with better hopes of success than had ever yet cheered the advocates of the cause. The reason was plain. The event no longer appeared remote and improbable. The energies and resources of the State were deemed by all competent to the occasion, and the prospect of immediate and beneficial results made all willing and even anxious to contribute in any degree to realize them. The Parent Society was early informed of the organization and principles of the body which had thus been called into existence by the current of events; and a correspondence ensued, which resulted in the Parent Society's requiring that the funds collected in Maryland should be paid into the Treasury at Washington upon the promise that they should be appropriated as the State Society might indicate. This was reducing the State Society to the condition of an auxiliary under the system from which its very formation was an attempt to emerge. It was consequently declined. It was then to be modified as to require the payment into the general fund of the surplus only of the annual collections. This also was deemed inadmissible; for although at first there might be more money collected than was immediately required, yet the period was confidently anticipated when the reverse would be the case, and against such time it was deemed wise and prudent to prepare by husbanding any present surplus that might possibly exist. The Maryland Society however offered to pay to the American Col. Society "all necessary expenses incurred by the latter in consequence of emigrants sent to Africa from Maryland by this Society, which expenses were to be ascertained in a manner hereafter to be agreed on by the two Boards" Propositions to this effect were sent to the Board in Washington which your committee beg leave to refer to as a part of the present report. In reply, the Parent Board passed a Resolution imposing what your Committee consider in the light of a tax of Twenty dollars upon every emigrant sent from Maryland to Liberia, and restricting the State Society as to the time and number of expeditions to be fitted out by it. It is the letter containing a copy of this Resolution that had been submitted to your Committee. For the step thus taken by the Board in Washington no reason has been given, and your committee in reporting upon it are left to those data which are accidentally within their reach. These however it is believed are amply sufficient to shew that the tax thus imposed is both unjust and impolitic and should be resisted, not only as affecting the interests of Maryland, but as seriously affecting the plea[n]

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

I. Minutes
A. Records of the Meetings of the Board of Managers

1. February 1831--December 1831

1831