In the palace garden at Hampton court there is a vine nursed for a century with all the care of royal patronage; its stem is a foot in circumference; one branch trailed back to the extent of 114 ft. This vine, the boast of the royal gardens has borne, in one year 2200 bunches of grapes. There is a vine now at Oxford, eight miles from Easton, in Talbot Co. eight years old untrained, rambling over the bushes with republican liberty & wild luxuriance, on which there has been this year counted 2500 bunches of grapes; and these are of the white kind, that sell readily in our market for three dollars a bushel. The grapes now hanging on that vine are worth fifty dollars. Could the emigrants from Switzerland & Germany see the vines now to be seen on the Eastern shore, I am persuaded they would not emigrate to the western country. Yet with all these advantages we see this delightful country rapidly losing its white population, while Washington County, from 80 to 100 miles from market, with a land carriage to get to it with a far inferior soil; where wood is not worth ten cents a cord standing; surface of the soil rocky & hilly – with all these disadvantages the land of Washington will sell & sell readily, for from four to ten times the amount per acre that the lands of Talbot county will sell for. What is the reason of this? The cause & the remedy are both too evident to need a recital. The last census shews what will soon be the result if a change is not resorted to in this County

	Slaves	free blacks	total blacks	Whites
1820	4668	2034	6702	7687
1830	4131	2519	6650	6254
	537	485	52	1433
	decrease	increase	decrease	decrease

From Easton I proceeded to Cambridge in Dorchester County. There was a Society formed in this town, & several Emigrants went to the Colony early after its settlement. These were among the principal sufferers in the attack which the Natives made on the Colony. One from this town was killed, & several wounded. These misfortunes deterred more blacks from offering to go. This Society had been formed like all others, without any special reference to the aid of the blacks but merely for the collection of money for the aid of the general purpose. The blacks not offering to go the whites lost all interest in the cause, and this Society like those of other counties, could not, for the last year gather members enough to form a quorum in order to appropriate their funds. These failures point us to the road for success. If we will inform the blacks & make them sensible of the great advantages which await them, & their children in the Colony, & induce them to take measures for going; their white neighbours will furnish them with the necessary means. This has in some instances been the case, on the Eastern shore, a family has pretended to be going to the Colony; they have gone round to the whites of the place, & made a collection for that pretended purpose; and then come to Baltimore & lived upon the money: though the people would not give to the Colonization Society, they would give to such application from the blacks themselves.

A Meeting was called on the 4th of July at the Courthouse, where a Society was formed, adopted the usual form of Constitution & chose their Officers. I had so me interviews with the blacks of this place, many of whom expressed a determination to go to the Colony – Several slaves were offered their liberty if they would go to the Colony, and I have no doubt but they will accept the offer. As

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