the estimable daughter of an emigrant from Maryland and the first colored Governor of a settlement from America on the Coast of Africa, the prominent facts of his life were soon enumerated; but none better knew or so well as the Board under what responsibilities this life in Africa was passed and how conscientiously he discharged them, how at periods when the very existence of the then infant Colony depended upon its relations with surrounding tribes of excited natives, his coolness and admirable judgement obviated or averted impending perils; how when the authority and dignity of the Colonial Government were at stake in lamented controversies with civilized and angry white men, the calm decorum of his conduct brought even his opponents over to his side; how when popular clamor among the colonists called upon him as a judge, to disregard the forms of law and sacrifice an offending individual, in the absence of legal proof he rebuked the angry multitude by the stern integrity of of his conduct; and how, on his visit to Baltimore in 1848 he was thanked, personally, by the members of the Board he deprecated the praise bestowed on him for the performance of his duty, and impressed all who saw him with the modest manliness of his character and his most excellent and courteous bearing. All these matters were now, the President continued, on the intelligence of his death, made fresh in the memories of the Board for whom it remained to say what was proper to be done, to honor the memory of the true and faithful man, who had

thus died in their services, with "harness on his back", and in the midst of his acknowledged and great usefulness

Whereupon on motion of William Crane Esqr the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Board have heard with profound regret of the death of John B. Russwurm, the State Society's agent on the Coast of Africa and Governor of Maryland in Liberia, and desire to express their high appreciation of his character and services

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Board, Mr Russwurm, as the first colored Governor appointed to that office in Liberia, vindicated, by the eminent ability of his administration, the perfect fitness of his race for the most important political positions in Africa, and won for himself a lasting and honorable fame

Resolved, That this Board deem it their duty here to record that in the period of fifteen years, during which he was their agent, they never had a single occasion to censure or find fault with his conduct in his official or private character

Resolved, That in order to perpetuate the memory of one so worthy, this Board will cause a Marble Monument to be erected at Cape Palmas, with an inscription, doing justice to his talents and his virtues

Resolved, That the President of the Society be requested to communicate to Mrs Russwurm a copy of the proceedings on this occasion, and to express to her the sympathies of the members of the Board in her late afflicting bereavement

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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

4. June 1838--October 1851

1851