Farnham's Retreat, Tuesday May 26th 1835,

Dear Sir,

On Sunday eve my negro man Dick Brother of Mary, a fine able bodied man came to me & requested his freedom to go to Maryland in Liberia with his sister & Ambrose. He had been one of the most strenuous to oppose this matter when first proposed & had quite recently told me that he prefered remaining where he was. His affection for his sister, (they having both come into the possession of this family at the same time, & being the only members of their family who belong to us) was doubtless the cause which moved him to ask his freedom. I had calculated upon his services this summer, & could not well do without them, but when I reflected that slavery is sufficiently odious when it is voluntary, & most galling when involuntarily submited to, & remembered my desire for the prosperity of the infant Colony as well as the prosperity of those of my negroes who were about to emigrate thither I determined to release him. Accordingly I took Dick, Ambrose, Mary, & Will who wished to renounce his freedom, with me to Port Tobacco on Monday where I executed a deed of manumission for Dick, & procured his free papers. as also the papers for Ambrose & Mary. I saw Mr. Lanson the Sheriff who is too busy to spare time to come to our residence & talk with our negroes, he did however see & talk with those who were with me, & told them that he should be obliged to arrest their fellows, & carry them out of the State unless they consented to go. Mr. Lanson is willing to carry them wherever the Managers propose, & thinks the most proper

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835