Port Tobo 27th July 1835.

Sir,

I am, again, constrained to address the State Colonization Managers, through you, in relation to Shadrick, a coloured man manumitted by the Revd. Mr. Goodwin — With all the assistance I can ~~command~~ in construing the acts of 1832 Ch. 145 & 1831 Ch. 281, relating to manumitted slaves, (both of which Laws are referred to by you), I cannot find any authority to act without your report of refusal to remove beyond the limits of the State, (which I have); together with the funds to defray the necessary expences of removal to be furnished by you, when you shall have designated the place to which you require me to remove him — If the act of 1832 Ch. 145 which is a supplement to the act of 1831 Ch. 281 — be construed without reference to the act to which it is a supplement, it would certainly confer upon the sheriff a discretion in selecting the place in such contingencies as the one pointed to in your report; but if it be taken in connexion with the original act (which specially vests in the board of managers the authority over that matter), there can be no doubt that the law never intended to transfer the discretion from the board of managers to the sheriff — I am more than willing, — I am anxious to do my duty, but I am not disposed to construe myself into responsibility — If you will designate any place beyond the limits of the state, or specially authorise me to make the selection, & furnish me the funds to defray the expence, he shall be forthwith removed — It has become my duty, however, since my last communication to say, that he has expressed a willingness to go to Pennsylvania —

Respectfully Yours &c
Jno. B. Lawson Sheriff & Ch. Court

P.S. Let me hear from you by the next mail.

Chas. F. Mercer Esq.
Chairman &c
State Colonization Society
Baltimore

Ft Tobo
July 27

Charles Howard Esq
State Colonization Office
Baltimore

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835