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Trappe, Talbot County Md Decr 22nd 1855

Mr John Seys,

Dear Sir, Your letter of the 26th of Septr last was duly received, and the contents carefully noticed, and should have been replied to at once, but from the information you gave me of the Am. Colonization society having relinquished all intention of building or purchasing a Steamer; that being the case, I felt at a loss as to what would be my best plan of rendering some assistance to the enterprise, and have not yet fully determined what to do — Will you do me the favor to answer the following enquiries as near as you can from your own knowledge, and from what you can learn or gather from others. Viz — Have the Maryland Colonization society a vessel or vessels belonging to them, if so, how many, and of what discription, if none; what size ship would best suit their purposes — What would one of the proper size, best materials, and finish cost, complete in every respect — Have you a Captain in the service of the society fully competent to attend to the building, rigging &c. of such a ship — I do not wish this laid officially before the board of Managers, as I prefer to have a little more time to think on the subject — I refer you to Ex. Gov. P. F. Thomas & Jno. B. Kerr Esqr (and might name many others,) as to the probability of my doing what I promised. I am not at all posted on the subject of Colonization, and will thank you to send me your paper, say for six Months, I would now send the money, but dont recollect the price, it shall be attended to at once —

Yours very respectfully

Jno. Stevens

Direct to Trappe P.O.
Talbot County, Md

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855—October 1857

1855