At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society Jany 21st 1857 – On motion the Statement of the Executive Committee was taken up & it was Resolved That the whole subject of the bark Ship Mary Caroline Stevens as presented in the Statement of the Executive Committee & in the Annual Report be referred to a Special Committee Committee Rev Mr Pinney, Rev Dr McLean and Rev W McLain

Jany 22

The President laid before the Board the following report from the trustees of the ship *Mary Caroline Stevens:*

*To the Board of Directors of the Am. Col. Society:*

The undersigned, two of the trustees appointed by the late John Stevens, of Talbot county, Maryland, under a deed dated on the 26th February, 1856, and to whom was transferred the fund of $36,000 which he gave, that a ship might be built for the use of the Society, beg leave to make the following report:

The facts connected with the donation, the building, the launching, and the sailing on her first voyage of the ship in question, called, as desired by Mr. Stevens, after his daughter—the *Mary Caroline Stevens*—are so well known to the Board that it is unnecessary, here, to recapitulate them. The report of Dr. James Hall, one of the trustees, and their special representative in the details of their proceedings, and the disbursement of their funds, is appended hereto, and will afford the information which, at this time, may be desirable. The trustees have not yet collected all the securities assigned to them by Mr. Stevens, and until this is done, their accounts must necessarily remain open, and it will not be in their power to make a final report. They have reason to believe, however, that it will not be long before their collections will be completed, when they propose, in addition to the report which will then be made, to hand to the Board a volume which they have had prepared, and which will be found recorded, not only their own proceedings, but the correspondence, as well that which was held with Mr. Stevens, by them touching his donation, as that which grew, otherwise, out of the duties of the trustees; the whole forming a narrative not without its interest, and which the trustees feel sure, will be preserved among the archives of the Society, bearing honorable testimony to the character and liberality of a Gentleman of Maryland.

In the interim, however, there is one point to which the trustees wish to call the attention of the Board. The trust they hold, they look upon as technical in its terms and character, now that the vessel has been built and is in charge of a captain appointed by the Board, to which she was in fact delivered by the trustees when he took possession of her. This being so, the future management of the ship, in port and out of port, will devolve on the Board and the Executive Committee; and the trustees, while they continue in existence as holding the legal title to the ship, and for the purpose of seeing her appropriated to the uses for which she was built, respectfully suggest that it may be considered by the Board as hereafter under the charge of the American Colonization Society; on which devolves, through its proper officers, to carry out, in her use, the intentions of the donor.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN H. B. LATROBE,
*Chairman, &c.*

Rev. Fullerton Dr Tully Robert H. Gill Esq. Com.

On motion, this report was referred to the special committee on the Society's ship.

At the evening session of the Board of Directors Jany 22 1857

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

14. November 1857--November 1863

1857