and whether or not, I do hold you as such for coming out with us, if no more. Now to my coloured friends. Believe me when I tell you the truth, for I will tell you the truth, and not a lie. I did believe as you do now believe, when I was with you all in America, that before I would go to Africa, I would sooner die than to come to Africa; but I will say as it is said in the Scriptures, that once I was blind but now I see. I am satisfied that there is not a free man of colour in the United States. John Lee, do you remember the last conversation that you, and me, and James Freeland had under the cedar tree at the meeting house? Why I am not sold, nor yet had my back flogged, I stand on my own ground, and no man can say, stand off, for I am better than you. Now, if you should doubt this letter, or any thing that is in it, being true, I hope that the next time I hear from you, you may have your back well flogged, and if I had to do it, I would give it to you well for staying under oppression; for I can say, in truth, that if you or any man should come to Africa with the intention to work, and take it rough and tumble, he may live here, though I well know what you will say, that I am in Africa and can't get back; but that is a mistaken thing in you, for there is a vessel here now, that if I want to go back, he would be glad to have me; and those that would want to raise their children as white people do in America, this is very place to do it; for a man that comes out here don't only free himself, but a generation. Any man that does that, it is an honour to him when he is in his grave.

Mr. Gould will read a letter published in the Maryland Colonization Journal to you, that was sent from this place, for those are my sentiments as it is in that, though you must calculate to meet with some difficulties in any new country.

Mr. Gould, sir, I wish you to read this letter if you can to the coloured people in the neighbourhood of Hunting creek. Give my best respects to all my inquiring friends. I remain your humble servant,

LEVI NORRIS.

BY-LAWS

Of the Maryland State Colonization Society.

1. The payment annually of one dollar, shall constitute an individual a member of this society; and a payment, at any one time, of thirty dollars, or upwards, shall constitute an individual a member for life.

2. All persons who were life members of the Maryland State Colonization Soceity, before the incorporation of this society, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, members for life of this society.

3. The officers of this society shall consist of a President, six Vice Presidents, twelve Managers, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer, to be elected forthwith, and to serve until the annual meeting of the society next ensuing.

4. The officers shall be elected at every annual meeting; but if an election shall not be held at such time, the officers last chosen shall continue to hold their respective offices until an election shall be made at a meeting of the society, to be called for the purpose.

5. The President, Vice-President, Secretaries, and Treasurer, shall be *ex officio* members of the board of managers.

6. The Board of Managers shall meet to transact the business of the society, when seven shall constitute a quorum.—They shall have all the powers of the society, to enable them to carry into full effect the provisions and intentions of the act of incorporation, and of any other acts of Assembly relating to colonization, or the people of colour of Maryland, and in which the agency of this society now is, or may hereafter be, required or requested—and all the powers of this society, for such purposes, are hereby vested in the said board of managers, in as full a manner as they could be exercised by this society under the said act of incorporation. The Board of Managers shall have power to fill all vacancies that may occur in their number, or in any of the offices of this society: and to make such by-laws as they, from time to time, may find expedient or necessary to the exercise of the powers and authority vested in them. It is especially enjoined upon, and required of, the said Board of Managers, to form, or cause to be formed, auxiliary societies, wherever practicable throughout the state, upon such terms and conditions as the said Board may prescribe. The said Board shall meet on the first Monday in every month, and whenever called together by the President, or in his absence, by one of the Vice-Presidents.

7. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the society and the Board of Managers.

8. The Recording Secretary shall keep the records of the society, the names, residences, and amount of subscription of members, and shall act as the Secretary of the board of managers, and perform such other duties as may be required of him.

9. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts, and take charge, subject to the order and regulations of the board of managers, of the funds of this society: and shall give bond 'that he will truly and faithfully account for all moneys of the society that may come to his hands,' in such penalty as the board of managers may, from time to time, fix.

10. The annual meetings of this society shall be held on the Wednesday immediately preceding the last Monday in December, in the city of Baltimore, when the members present shall be a quorum.

11. No by-law of this society shall be altered or expunged unless by consent of two-thirds of the members of the society present at a meeting called for the purpose.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47