

first of May, 1817, *Amos Ogden* bound himself, by a bond, to distribute most of his personal property among *Amos Ogden of Stephen, Nancy Ogden, and Sarah Burket*. Under these circumstances, on the 22d of May, 1817, he wrote a letter to his brother *Benjamin Ogden*, the father of *John W. Ogden*, of which the following extract is all that is material to this case:—

“DEAR BROTHER—

“With joy, on the 17th of April last, I received your favour by your son *Capt. John W. Ogden*, together with my land papers on *Phillips*, and have to regret, that I have been compelled in giving you so much trouble in the arrangement of my business. But mean to compensate, if giving the largest part of that land will compensate, to your children. I shall deed to your daughter *Mary T. Harpenden*, and your son *Stephen T. Ogden*, two hundred acres each, and the remainder to your son *John W. Ogden*, and his expected spouse *Nancy Ogden* of our dear brother *Stephen*, as joint tenants, and to the survivor in fee simple for ever. I have got to inform you, and my loving sister *Nancy Ogden*, your dear wife, that my dear adopted daughter *Nancy Ogden of Stephen*, and your son *John W. Ogden*, is expected to be married some time between this and next spring, as will best suit his return to Maryland. I can tell you, my dear brother, (though my heart bleeds at the idea of her leaving me forlorn of any child to comfort me in my advanced age of life,) I rejoice to think, that she is agoing to be connected to so worthy a man as your son; and I have no doubt but that the Lord will bless them in their affections. She has lived with me nearly ten years, and has conducted herself in such an amiable manner, that both at home and abroad she is beloved. As to the things of this world, I shall bestow on her, at her parting with me, about six thousand dollars worth of real and personal property; and at my death, if blessed by Divine Providence, at least as much more. You and I do not agree as to the real value of the land in the Big-bend; I should be loth to convey that land to a stranger for less than ten dollars per acre. You will recollect, brother, that there is a great many people in Europe, and as soon as opportunity will admit, will emigrate to America.”

This letter was endorsed in the same handwriting, thus:—
“Copy sent *Benj. Ogden*.”

Amos Ogden, on the 27th of May, 1817, a few days only after he had written this letter to his brother, made his will, in which, among other things, he says:—“And whereas it is agreed and