

### **The Settler's Map and Guide Book**

Excerpt from Matthews, W. B., *The Settler's Map and Guide Book: Oklahoma*. Washington, D.C.: William H. Lepley, 1889. p. 14. Newberry Library call number: Graff 2722

In Oklahoma proper, a rolling country with no great altitudes, no Indians have been allowed to reside nor are there any white settlements. It is absolutely uninhabited except by straggling hunters, who dare not even build a shanty from which to hunt, and by cowboys attending the herds which still manage, in defiance of executive orders for their removal, to hold their ground in some parts. The climate is “delightful,” neither too cold in winter nor too hot in summer. The lowest temperature in winter is zero, rarely falling, however, and only for short periods of day or two, below 15° to 20° above zero.

There is no waste land in the country. On seventy-five per cent of the land, a rich loam capable of the highest cultivation, tropical as well as all cereal and vegetable products can be readily raised, while the remainder are excellent timber and grazing lands, the luxuriant hay grasses of which, growing wild and higher than a horse's head, demonstrate the great natural fertility of the soil.

A writer in the *American Field* of a recent date declares: “If there is a more beautiful or more fertile spot on earth the question as to the location of the original garden of Eden is settled.”