

On the east edge of Peters Prairie is Polson Cemetery. Originally it was known as Peters Prairie Cemetery, but in the changing times it was renamed. This cemetery is the resting place of some of the Cherokee Nation's most prominent people. Here rests General Stan Watie, Major Ridge, John Ridge, James M. Bell, J. W. Washbourne, and others. The two Ridge men were assassinated June 22, 1839, which will give some idea as to how long this cemetery has been in use. Until the cemetery was fenced and cleaned up, Mr. Welch said a lot of that area was a wilderness.

Just south of Polson Cemetery, when that area was mostly a wilderness, one winter night Rev. Dave Butler was on his way home from a meeting. No one knows what happened to him that night, but the next day he was found frozen to death. His saddle horse was standing by the body.

Generally known as Maysville, Arkansas, half of the houses there are on the Oklahoma side of the line. Maysville's history dates probably from the beginning of the Cherokee Nation or before. Mention is made by historians that Cherokees arriving in the west from the Trail of Tears march were turned loose into Indian Territory at Maysville, and at other places along the boundary line. Unique in arrangement, the stores on the west side of Maysville's main street had two fronts, one opening to Arkansas, and one opening onto the Indian Territory line. Here was the home of many prominent Indians from time to time. The Moses Fields cemetery, just a hundred feet inside the Oklahoma line, is the resting place for some of those people: Moses Fields, died 1855; Emma Fields, died 1851; Josephan Fields, died 1852; and John F. Fields, died 1856, giving an idea of the period when Indian settlers were in this country. Mr. Welch recalls that in early days 'Old Man' Decker had a boarding school at Maysville, and many Indians from the Cowskin and Peters Prairie country attended school there. Even to-day Indians can be found living over in Arkansas along the state line, which tells that the descendants of some of the early settlers never got very far from their homeland. Among some of the other early families of the Maysville country were the Parks, Thompsons, Wards, Lynch, and Fords. Probably none of these families are represented by present generations there, but an old Thompson family Cemetery can be found a few miles southwest of Maysville. It was from Maysville that Cherokee Parks wrote to her grandmother, Susannah Parks, on 6th December 1867, telling about this part of the Cherokee Nation. The Parks home was just at the west edge of Maysville, but Miss Park's letter was written from 'Batties Prairie', which was the name of the area that joined the Arkansas line then. Miss Parks was related to the Thompsons, who came to Indian Territory about the time of removal. This would seem reasonable, for from the inscriptions of some of the graves in the old Thompson Cemetery, these dates show: Julia Thompson died 1839; Richard Thompson, died 1845; William Thompson, died 1846, in addition to others buried there in the 1840s. On the state line at Maysville is a historical marker telling of the Battle of Maysville, in which General Stan Watie and his Regiment battled the Union forces.

Along the long stretch of Beatie's Creek from its fork on the Spavinaw, many Cherokees have lived there during the past 130 years, and it is still a stronghold of the Cherokees.