

## Headstone bears 1663 date

The oldest known cemetery with burials bearing headstones inscribed with date of birth and death was known as the Old Pierson Cemetery, in Arapahoe.

In March of 1993, things changed. William Cahoon discovered a huge granite headstone that had fallen over decades before. He used a heavy piece of equipment to help upright the enormous stone. "When I saw the inscription, I just couldn't believe my eyes:" Edward Bryan, Born in London 1663. Emigrated to Nansemond County, Virginia 1690, moved to Craven County in 1700 - Died 1739." The inscription continues: Christana, his wife, dau. of Hodges Council, died 1745.

A gentleman by the name of Roy Cahoon of Goose Creek said that he recalled seeing the same overturned headstone. "I was about 21 or 22 years old at that time," he said. "One day Wallace, Thad and myself went rambling in the woods and ended up at the Perkins Cemetery off Muddy Landing Road (Reelsboro area). We knew the cemetery was there and at that time, you could also see the remains of the old

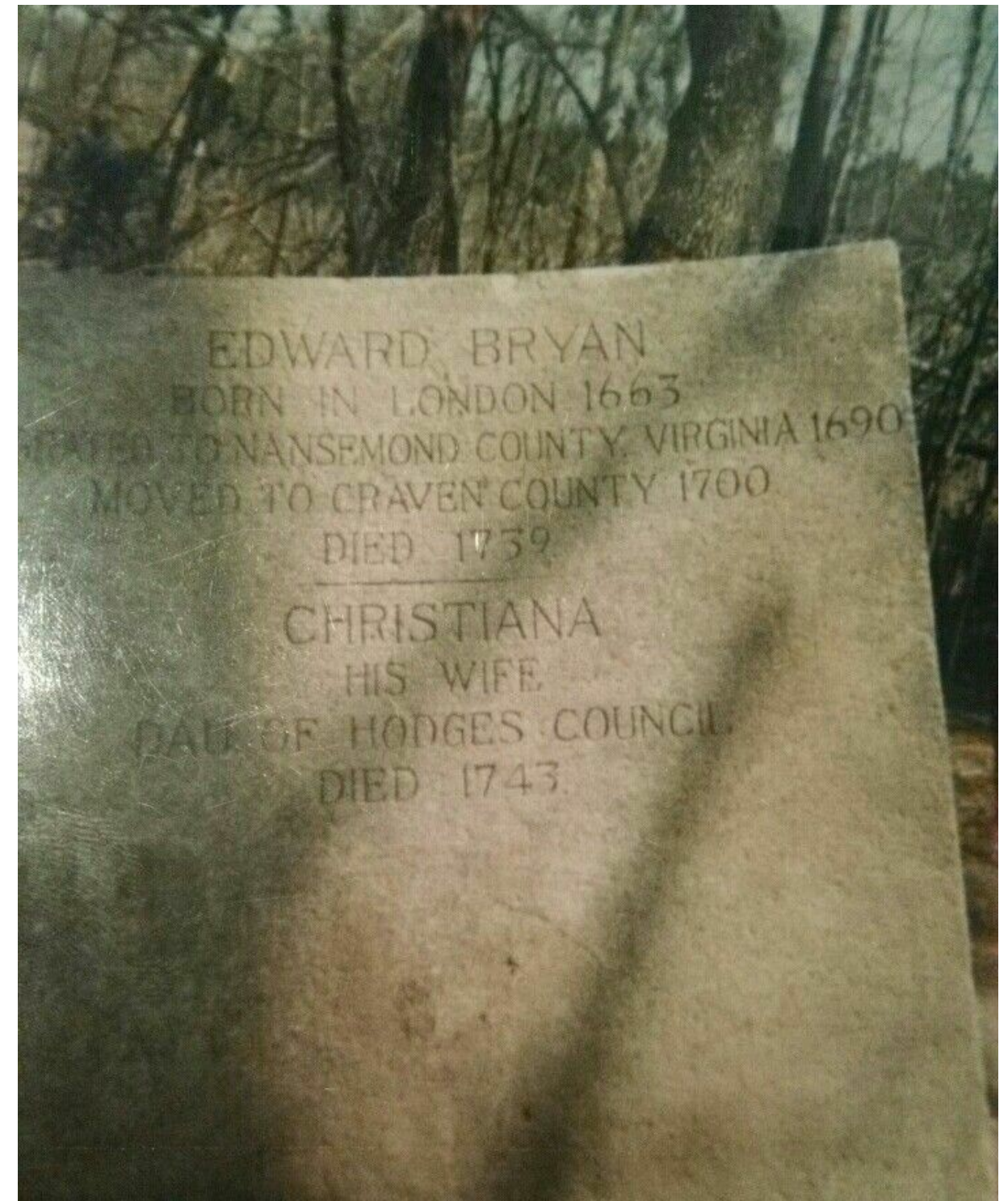


**In 1993, William Cahoon, after using a piece of heavy equipment turned this headstone right-side-up, solving a mystery.**

Perkins home site."

He said that was some 45 or 50 years ago. "At that time, the stone was face-down and we couldn't see the inscription."

"But I clearly remember what Wallace told me. He said that two ladies came here from New York and had the stone put at the grave site."



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