

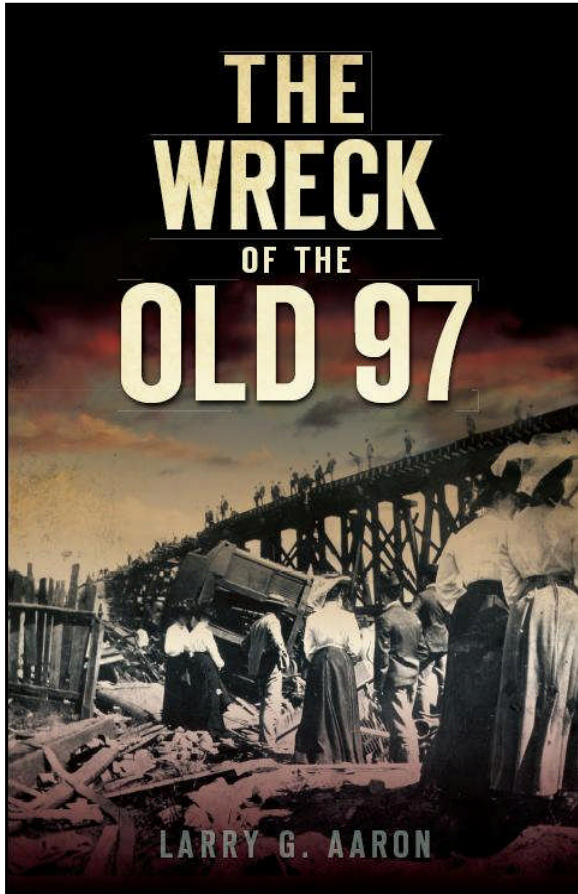
Author Presentation at the BRC-NRHS regular meeting  
January 12, 2011, 6:00 PM: Charley's Restaurant



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## *The Wreck of the Old 97*

Larry G. Aaron

With Fast Mail train No. 97 an hour behind schedule, locomotive engineer Steve Broady, according to legend, swore to “put her in Spencer on time” or “put her in Hell.” Through eyewitness reports and court testimonies, historian Larry Aaron expertly pieces together the events of September 27, 1903, at Danville, Virginia, when the Old 97 plummeted off a forty-five-foot trestle into the ravine below. With more twists and turns than the railroad tracks on which the Old 97 ran, this book chronicles the story of one of the most famous train wrecks in American history, as well as the controversy surrounding “The Wreck of the Old 97,” that most famous ballad, which secured the Old 97 a place within the annals of American folklore.

### THE AUTHOR

Larry Aaron is associate editor of *Evince* newsmagazine and a published historian from Danville, Virginia. He has received first-place awards for his writing from the Virginia Press Association and also edited the award-winning book *Danville in the Civil War* by Lawrence McFall. Among his published works are *Aaron Ancestors of Pittsylvania County, Virginia*, a genealogical study; *Keppy's War*, the memoirs of Captain John Kepchar in World War II; *The Race to the Dan*, a history of events in the southern campaign during the American Revolution; and *Pittsylvania County: A Brief History*, published by The History Press.

### BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

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978-1-59629-876-7  
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32 books per carton

### MARKETING, PUBLICITY, PRESS

- Includes first-hand accounts of survivors and witnesses
- Publishing date is in time for the Old 97 Rail Days event
- Provides history of the hit country song that followed the wreck