Historic Rockville, Utah

by Jane E. Whalen
Stout’s Sheep Bridge. Note the sheep crossing the bridge over the Virgin River. The sheep in this photo belonged to John L. Sevy, a rancher from northern Utah. He may have hired the Stouts to help herd the sheep from their range on the Arizona Strip. The bridge is in the Town of Virgin. Hence, we know how the road got its name, Sheep Bridge Road.

Photograph courtesy Hurricane Park Museum
STOUT’S SHEEP BRIDGE

A note on the photograph at the Hurricane Heritage Park Museum about "Sheep Bridge" reads:

John L. Sevy had Grandpa Stout [Allen Joseph Fish Stout] built this bridge below Virgin in the Spring, while LaMar was on his mission. He (John L. Sevy) was taking his sheep to Modena to shear. (The sheep were probably sheared at the location in the picture and it was the wool he was taking to Modena.)

When LaMar was on his mission Grandpa just didn’t know what he was going to do to keep him there—many times it was this way, but always something came up in time so he was able to keep him out in the field. The building of this bridge was one of those such times. Grandpa, with the help of Allie, [his father?] built this bridge. The water was high in the Virgin River and it was dangerous work. Getting the stringer across was the difficult task, but Dad knew how. After that it was easier. A sheep was drowned here.

Mr. Sevy stayed at our home when he came in to stock up on supplies. He was real happy to have the bridge go up. And Grandpa was grateful for the job. It furnished the means to keep LaMar for two or three months on his mission.

Dad used this bridge as a means for making money. Other sheep men were glad to pay the toll for crossing of their sheep. He later built the bridge large enough for the sheep wagons, etc.
—Written as Alice told it to me (Kate Stout)