



In 1880, 3 years before Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad completed its narrow gauge mainline through Utah in 1883, it incorporated the Sevier Valley Railway. The plan was that this branch line would deliver agricultural and other traffic from the Sanpete Valley and Sevier River Valley to the future D&RGW (1883n) mainline. In early 1891, the D&RGW completed its narrow gauge SV from Thistle, on the D&RGW (1883n) mainline, south 60 miles to Manti in the Sanpete Valley. In the same year, just months after the narrow gauge line to Manti was completed, the entire line between Thistle and Manti was converted to standard gauge; the D&RGW had converted its D&RGW (1883n) mainline the previous November. Later in 1891 the now-standard gauge SV was extended south to Salina, 85 rail miles south of Thistle. In 1896 the SV was extended south through this location at Richfield to Sevier (120 miles from Thistle) and in 1900 it reached the southern terminus of the SV at Marysvale, 130 miles south of Thistle. The SV became the Marysvale Branch of the D&RGW in 1908. The branch was abandoned after a landslide at Thistle 1983.

Northward view of the SV (1900) at Richfield, Utah. Note the flat floodplain of the Sevier River, ideal for agriculture.



Southward view of the SV (1900) at Richfield, same location as previous.