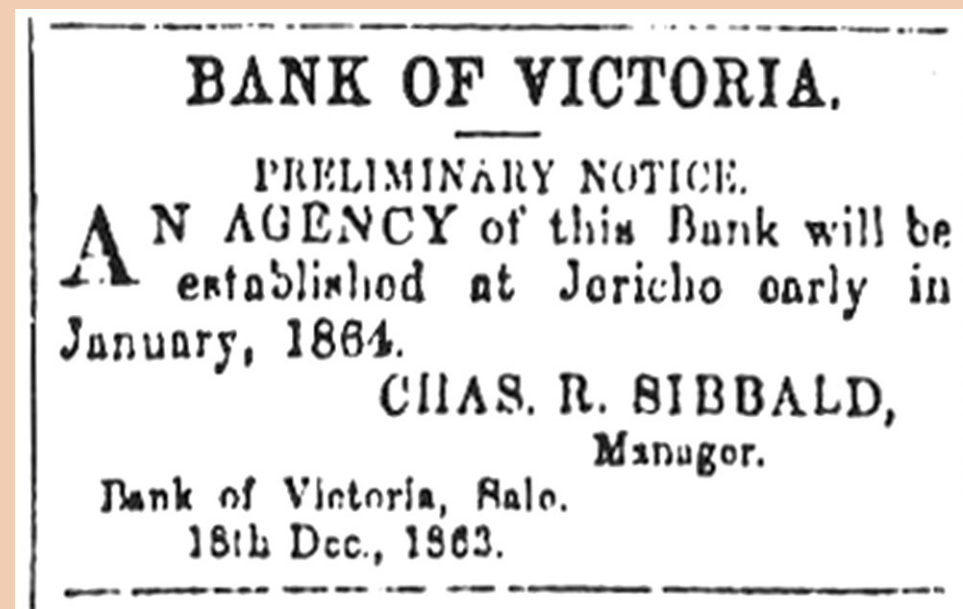


# JERICHO BANK

## c.1864

*The untimely death of a favourite bank manager*

A branch of the Bank of Victoria was opened in 1864. The manager was William Bunster who remained until winter of 1865. John Chester replaced Bunster two months later. In time a new young manager, Louis Dobson was to succeed Chester.



The year 1867 saw gold production falling away in the district and business houses were not able to sustain the profits of the previous years. Many miners, families and businessmen were leaving Jericho for the New Zealand diggings.

The banks lowered the price of gold and the branch at Jericho closed its doors in the last months of 1867. The public were expected to travel to the bank at Wood's Point, further draining their time and resources.

Earlier in the year Jericho residents had grieved at the death of their young bank manager Louis Dobson, and the closure of the bank was another major loss to the wellbeing of the town.

The death of the 22 year old was reported in detail by the Wood's Point newspaper:

***“The funeral of the late Mr Dobson acting manager of the Bank of Victoria at Jericho, took place on Wednesday last, and was numerously attended. The deceased who had died at Jericho was carried over to the Bank of Victoria at Wood's Point on the shoulders of a number of miners. The funeral cortege started from the Bank of Victoria; the church bell was tolled, and all places of business closed. The coffin was conveyed to St. Mary's where the funeral service was read by the Rev Mr Mahalm. The procession proceeded to the burial ground, where the deceased was interred according to the formula of the Church of England. The deceased had been residing at Wood's Point for nearly two years. He was remarkable for his quiet, gentlemanly behaviour, and was much admired and respected by all with whom he was personally acquainted. His death has caused a general and heartfelt regret throughout our community.*”**

***He had the misfortune to be rather nearsighted, and this circumstance, no doubt had something to do with the cause of his fatal accident. On the Jericho road at a sharp turning point there is a tree with a large round projection, which would strike him just above the loin, causing the rupture of the right kidney. The bark was found rubbed off the tree, and the print of the horse's hoofs was found so close that he could not have passed without striking the tree. It was near this place he was found in a stunned intensible state...”***

Source: Rodgers, J.G., 1998, 'Jericho on the Jordan: a Gippsland Goldfields History';

Rudi Paoletti, 'Gold for the Taking, A Pictorial History of the Heyday of the Walhalla-Wood's Point Gold Belt, 2007';

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Take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints.