

York entrepreneur Alexander T. Stewart was stolen from its vault. Now Jones was surprised to be approached as an intermediary by the grave robbers, and for eight months he unsuccessfully negotiated with the court, the police and the criminals. Also involved in the strange case was Giuseppe Sala, the stone cutter who had perpetrated the Cardiff and New Hampshire Giant hoaxes, who claimed he had been approached by the ghouls.⁵⁴ The case was closed in 1880 with the payment of a ransom and return of Stewart's corpse.

General Jones resided from 1885 until his death on Staten Island, at 3 Ann Street in Port Richmond. After an illness of four years, he died of heart failure on Monday, July 23, 1900.⁵⁵ Funeral services were held the 25th at Saint Mary's Church in Port Richmond, and he was buried in Saint Peter's Cemetery,⁵⁶ where a marble stone marks his grave. General Jones was survived by his widow, Sarah, who died in 1912, and four sons.⁵⁷ When word of his death reached his old home town, the Ellicottville Post noted his "generosity, self abnegation, gentility and affability....He had a host of true, admiring friends and he was always sincerely true to them. He loved and served his country with devotion. Of course, unlike some others whose service was cheap compared to his, but 'banked on' and flouted before the public to gobble honors and questionable wealth- General Jones died, as he had lived, comparatively poor, for he never could withstand the appeal of a friend in need, and never enriched himself at the expense of a human being. The moist eyes of so many, far and wide, as they learn that General Jones has answered 'the last roll call' are eloquent tribute to his worth, valor and character and bespeak the truth that his memory shall not fade among men."⁵⁸