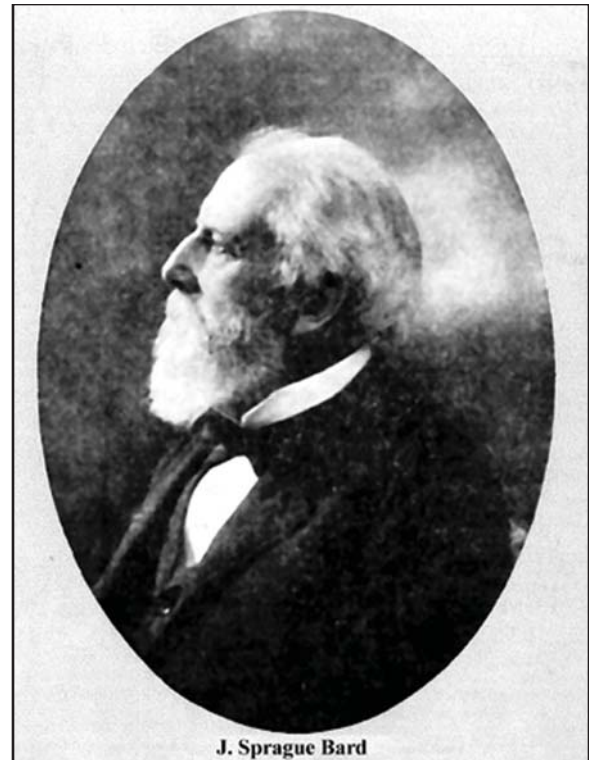


The Retirement of J. S. Bard

In September of 1900, Mabie, Todd & Bard file a Certificate of Business Name stating that George W. Mabie and John H. Mabie are the “true and real names of the persons conducting or transacting the same (business)” under the name of Mabie, Todd & Bard. This filing makes it clear that at least by this time, the only partners of the company are the Mabie brothers. By 1901-02, the directories no longer list Henry H. Todd at the company address, so he may have stopped working there as of the filing, which came after the preparation of the 1900-01 directories. In 1903-04, Bard and Stewart are also absent from the directories. At this point only George and his brother John H. are listed with the company. So Jonathan Sprague Bard ceased to be a partner in 1900. A magnificent Sterling cup was presented to him by the remaining partners upon the occasion of his retirement. The cup is now in the possession of David Bard, Sprague's great-grandson. His family has used the pitcher on special occasions his whole life. The detail image on the following page illustrates that the inscription was not merely engraved, but was cast.⁵⁹



J. Sprague Bard

This photo appeared in a fairly lengthy newspaper article which was written in honor of Sprague's 92nd birthday, Aug 17, 1916. The article, from the Windham County Transcript, is a glowing tribute honoring "Brooklyn's Oldest Male Resident."

Bard retired to Brooklyn, CT, where he had lived as a child. His obituary states that he disposed of his interests in the company in 1901.⁶⁰ Sprague's 1901 diary confirms a payment from Mabie, Todd & Bard of \$17,000 on February 1st, the anniversary of the founding of Mabie, Todd & Bard. The obituary also tells of a special pen:

During the administration of President Grant Mr. Bard devised and presented him a magnificent gold pen, probably the finest one that has been made, and which never has been duplicated. After President Grant's death the pen, with other of the great American's possessions, was presented to the Smithsonian institute, Washington, where its beauty can be seen by the public

A pen given during Grant's administration would have been a dip pen. The Smithsonian is under the impression that they have no information on this pen.

Bard was highly thought of in his community. He was a benefactor of the library and donated 6 acres of land to the cemetery in memory of his daughter, who died at the age of 18. A portion of the land was set aside for those who could not afford to buy a plot. Sprague loved to grow roses. He was very active in the Episcopal church. Family lore on the subject includes the story that the

⁵⁹ The inscription reads, "Feb 1st 1873 George W. Mabie, Henry H. Todd, J. Sprague Bard, John H. Mabie - founded the firm of MABIE TODD & BARD which continued until Feb 1st 1900 when J. SPRAGUE BARD retired on which occasion the remaining members tender him this memento of their regard and esteem"

⁶⁰ The Commemorative Biographical Record of Tolland and Windham Counties quoted earlier regarding the Bard Brothers seems to have been the primary source of information for Bard's obituary.