

Historical Background

Associated Family History & Cultural Lineage

William Wallace Hartwell (1821–1891)

William Wallace Hartwell was born on 28 July 1821 in Bennington, Bennington County, Vermont, United States, to Alfred Hartwell and Frances McClean Brownson. He later married Maria McLean on 3 June 1852 in Clinton County, New York. Together they raised a family of at least one son and four daughters.

Census records indicate that William Wallace Hartwell resided in Clinton, New York in 1860 and continued to live within New York State through 1870. He passed away on 5 December 1891 in Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York, at the age of seventy, and was laid to rest there.

Name & Lineage Context

The surname Hartwell is of English origin and is habitational in nature, derived from places bearing the name Hartwell in several English counties. The name itself arises from Old English terms meaning 'hart' or 'stag' and 'well' or 'spring,' signifying a place associated with natural water sources and wildlife.

The name Wallace traces its roots to Old French usage, originally serving as an ethnic byname used by the Normans to describe Celtic peoples. The given name William gained enduring prominence in the British Isles following the Norman Conquest and was further popularized in Scotland in honor of the patriot William Wallace of the late thirteenth century.

The given name William itself is derived from Germanic elements meaning 'will' or 'desire' and 'helmet' or 'protection,' reflecting a longstanding cultural association with leadership, resolve, and guardianship.

This historical summary is preserved as part of the broader record of cultural, familial, and community continuity, offering context for place, heritage, and stewardship across generations.