

KILKENNY FAMILY ROOTS

No Mickey Mouse story - Walt Disney was from Kilkenny!

Aristocat: Creator and founder of the iconic Disney brand was a direct descendant of a Kilkenny farmer

Walt Disney, the creator and founder of the iconic Disney brand, is an 'Aristocat'!

He is a direct descendant of a Kilkenny farmer.

Today, the corporation that bears his name has 199,000 employees and is the world's largest independent media conglomerate in terms of revenue.

His roots havenow been traced back to the parish of Freshford in county Kilkenny and to the townland of Clone.

This is where Walt Disney's

grandfather, Kepples Disney lived on 33 acres of land and seemed to have a good standard of living.

FAMOUS NAME

Local historian and retired Kilkenny castle lead guide, Frank Kavanagh was doing someresearch when he stumbled across the famous name and he decided to dig further.

"I came across the rental book for the castle including Freshford but had completely forgotten about it until last week," Frank disclosed.

He discovered that Kepple

Disney was born in early November 1832 and was Walt Disney's grandfather but Kepple's father was Arundel Elias Disney, who was Walt's great-grandfather.

MARRIED

Elias was born in 1801 in Kilkenny and married a woman named Swan. Together they had 16 children.

Family Roots

Walt came to Ireland back in 1946 to search for the Little People for research for his film 'Darby O'Gill And The Little People' ...

...but never visited Kilkenny

The Disneys went to America via Liverpool, as did a lot of Irish emigrants, and they ended up in Ontario Canada.

Kepple married

Mary Richardson in the mid 1850s. The records show Elias, who was Walt Disney's father, was born in 1859.

They moved on to settle in Kansas about 1880.

Elias was a common farm worker and eventually settled in Kansas City with his wife Flora and five children of which one was Walt who was born on December 5, 1901.

Walt came to Ireland back in 1946 to search for the Little People for research for his film Darby O'Gill And The Little People, but never visited Kilkenny.



Walt Disney with a drawing of the famous first Mickey Mouse cartoon 'Steamboat Willie'



Walt Disney and Mickey Mouse welcome people to Disneyland In California

