

## Br DAVID CAPLICE

25 March 1865 - ?



David Caplice is entered in the catalogue for 1890 as at Dunbrody *adj. cur, struthiocam*. None the wiser, this writer reached for a Latin dictionary and the word *struthiocamelus* came up as first used by Pliny the Elder (23-79 AD), and so lived at the time of Jesus, to describe an ostrich. So there we have it; he helped Br Thomas Arnold (seen on the left above) with the ostriches which were the economic backbone of Dunbrody until the Great War.

David entered the Society in 1887 and worked at Dunbrody from 1890 to 1894 when he moved to St Aidan's with, again, a tricky job description: *Cust. Tricl, Excit, Visit Noct.* in the 1895 catalogue. The dictionary also helps a little here as a *triclinium* was a Roman dining couch. The Romans liked to recline while eating and Jesus is sometimes pictured doing just that at the Last Supper. The word was gradually adapted to describe a dining room. So David looked after the dining room among other things.

David then disappears from the catalogue and, seemingly, from our records. We do not know where he was born or what happened after 1895.