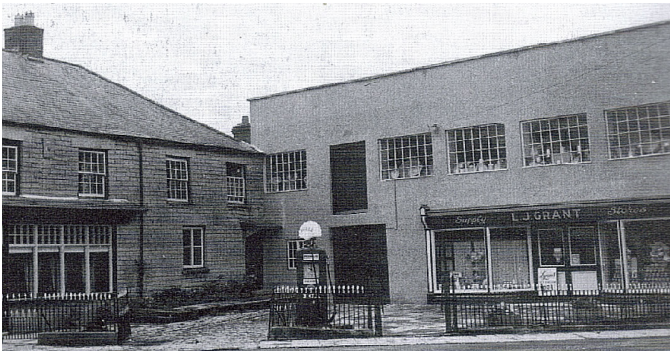
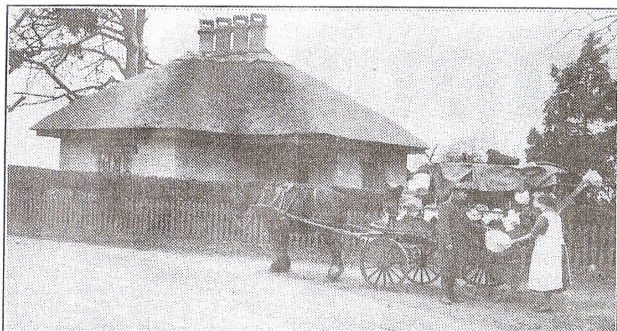


And now, G for Grocers and General Stores

There have been several such shops in different decades, at different locations around the village. The largest and longest-lasting was **Grants**, on the corner of Queens/Castle Street from 1937 until 1960, when it was destroyed by fire. This was primarily a grocer and butcher. *Frank Miller* drove the delivery van, *Tom Bridge and Don Cook* were assistants around the time of WWII. It was owned by the *Chalkers* who also owned a large quarry, from which the workers had to spend their wages in the company shop – a common practise at the time. Sharing the same courtyard was one of many ‘drinking holes’ – houses which sold their own cider from the front room.



Nearby, close to the diagonally opposite corner, was *Eggie Cabble's Ironmongery* which specialised in lamps, paraffin, pots+pans and anything else which could be piled onto the cart which *Eggie* drove around the nearby villages.



More stores were in Castle Street: *Harry Tate's Confectionary* shop (since called *Dunselin!* and now up for sale), conveniently close to the Temperance Hall and opposite the old chapel.

Then, as now, **General Stores + Post Office** were often combined – as with *Miss Ella Brooks* who married postal worker *Mr Pattemore* – and worked from their home next to the old *Lloyds Bank*, until the early 60s. Further along, on the opposite side of the road, *Alf Rumler* also married his assistant, *Lillian Thomas*, who together ran **Castle Stores** which later absorbed the Post Office. More recently, *Adrian Miller* 82-92, finally the *Fieldings* bought the business - which lasted till the summer of 2008 when then current owners, *Geoff and Lisa*, were sadly hit in the latest round of GPO cuts and closures – so, *Keinton* lost its own Post Office for good.

According to the census:

In 1861 Elijah and John Chalker were working at the Corner Shop

By 1871 joined by Mrs Clara Chalker + John Junr

In 1881 Birthia Chalker (73 yrs) and Caleb Bailey work in the expanding grocery

By '91, Frank Pitman and Maud are assistants, while Oliver and Jane Chalker are now the owners.

From 1871 we had a sub-postmaster, John Grant.

1881 shows Robert and Jane Brooks owning a Post Office and Sores

In 1891 Alf Cabble is listed as Oilman. While William Lukin's operated as Coal merchant.

