Revised 2/27/2024

Characters: 763

**The Vermont Country Store**

Vrest and Mildred Orton founded The Vermont Country Store in 1945 as a mail-order business. The catalogs were printed by Vrest on a 19th-century press. In 1946 the Ortons bought this 1828 building and recreated a late-19th-century general store based on the 1897 store of Vrest’s father, Gardner Lyman Orton, in North Calais, Vermont. In 1952 *The Saturday Evening Post* featured the business in a story entitled “The Happy Storekeeper of the Green Mountains.” This brought national acclaim with increased mail-order sales and a surge of visitors to Weston. A restaurant was added in 1960, and a second store in Rockingham opened in 1968. Continuously operated by the Orton family, The Vermont Country Store draws visitors from every state.

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