



I was born and raised in a small town in Wisconsin. My heritage, on my mother's side of the family, is Norwegian and Danish. I have had a long time interest in culture and the genealogy of my ancestors. When my aunt began teaching classes in Norwegian rosemaling in the early 1980's, I jumped at the opportunity to take classes. After only two classes, my aunt passed away, and I was left with the dilemma of finding another rosemaling teacher. At this time there were no other teachers available to take classes from, so I began a struggle to learn on my own with the help of only a few cherished books printed on the subject.

Putting my rosemaling on the back burner while attending school for nursing, I always knew I would be taking more classes in the future. In 1995, I took my first "in earnest" class at Vesterheim Norwegian Museum in Decorah, Iowa. It is noted for bringing the top teachers from the U.S. and Norway for week long classes. I have taken an average of 1-3 classes there a year since. I have taken classes from approximately 30-35 teachers. I am now totally hooked on the painting of my ancestors.

I traveled to Norway twice to take classes from Norwegian teachers there and to study pieces in their museums. The area I studied in was the area of my ancestors, Valdres, Norway. It was a trip of a life time, and I have many thoughts of the possibility of returning someday. I have received awards from the Son's of Norway, Indiana State Fair, and the Illinois Rosemaling Club. I am planning to submit pieces to the Vesterheim Museum for competition in hopes of receiving their prized gold medal award. There are limited gold medals achieved per year. A total of 8 points are needed for the honor. It usually takes at least 3 years or more to obtain.

There are so many different styles of rosemaling, including Telemark, Hallingdal, Rogaland, Vest Agder, Aust Agder, Valdres, Os, Gudbrandsdalen, Romsdal, plus many other lesser known styles. Each of these styles represents a valley of Norway, in which they were created back as far as the 1700's. I have been fortunate enough to study most of these styles with wonderful teachers.

I am married to my best friend and woodworker husband, Roger. He has been my support in life and this adventure. He has put up with my "wood stash" everywhere, my deadlines, my obsession with this art, and continually urges me on to study this beautiful art from Norway. Roger and I have two grown children who live with their spouses in Ohio. We have 4 grandchildren. We have lived in Thorntown for 9 years.

