

## Minnie Adkins

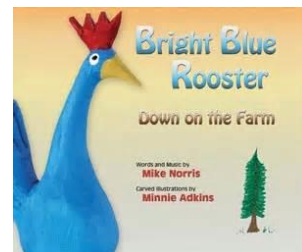
*“I love doing my art. I would go on making it even if I couldn’t sell it. I started making art as toys when I was a child. I use to make pop guns, sling shots, bow and arrows and what have you.”*



Minnie Adkins was born in 1934 in Elliott County, Kentucky. She learned to whittle as a child. She whittled her own toys. When she grew up, she whittled and carved animals and painted them as a hobby. She sold her carvings at outdoor markets for extra money. In 1980 a gallery in Morehead began selling her animals. People who collect folk art liked her work and began to buy it. Folk art is art that is made by someone who has learned how to create art from other people in their community. Minnie’s father taught her to use a pocket knife to whittle and carve. Minnie’s animals were very popular with folk art collectors.

Soon she had so many orders she needed help! Her husband, Garland, began working with her. And they didn’t keep their good fortune to themselves! They started a craft show called *A Day in the Country*. They invited folk art collectors. They invited other folk artists in their community to bring the crafts that they made. The folk art collectors bought crafts from other folk artists in Elliott County.

Minnie said, *“I helped other people in my community get started as folk artists because that is what we are put here for.”* Sometimes Minnie collaborates with other folk artists in her community. She collaborated with Tess Little to make pottery pieces with Minnie’s famous rooster design. She worked with songwriter, Mike Norris. They wrote and illustrated picture books with photos of her carvings like *Bright Blue Rooster* (Acclaim Press, 2013).



*Minnie’s piece in the Craft Luminary exhibit is called “Circle of Friends.” What do you think it represents?*