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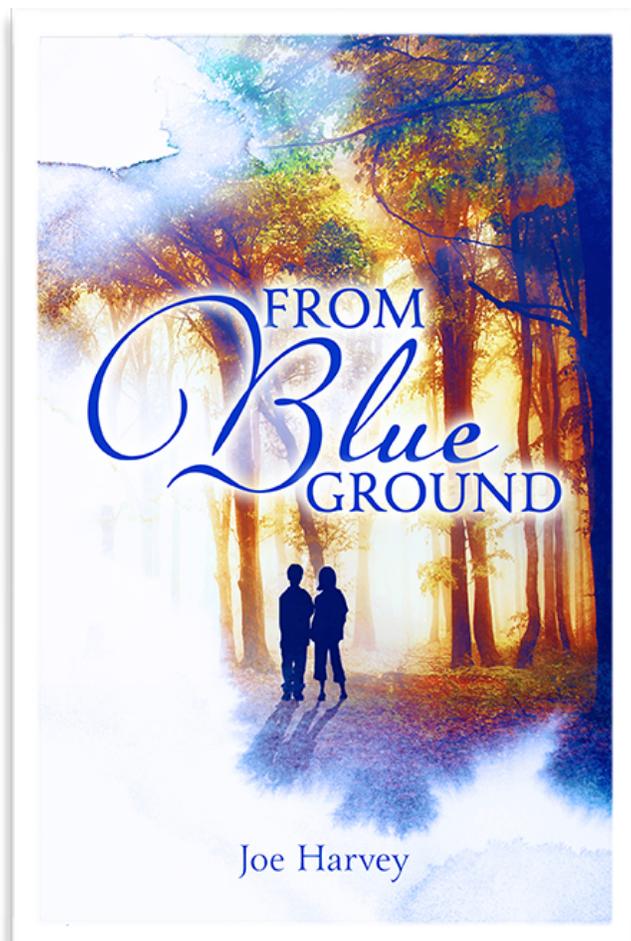
FROM BLUE GROUND

by Joe Harvey

Patrick and Sissy Hughes are on the run, fleeing their father's murderer. They carry with them a wooden box retrieved from a secret compartment beneath their father's bed. His dying words to them: "keep it safe, keep it hidden." Powerful men are looking for what's inside, and they will do anything they can to get it.

Set in 1876 in the coal hills of Pennsylvania, *From Blue Ground* follows the two unwitting orphans as they make their way to Philadelphia, where large crowds have gathered at the Centennial Exhibition. Their father had promised to take them there for the Independence Day celebration. Instead, they are running for their lives. Alone and on the run, they are pursued by James McKenna, their father's murderer, a rogue Pinkerton Security Agent, working undercover for the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad.

Patrick and Sissy's only hope is to unlock the mystery of the contents of the box: a diary, a translucent blue stone, and a bag of blue ground. That hope lies in Philadelphia with Henry Carvill Lewis, a professor of mineralogy at the Academy of Natural Sciences. As they make their way to Philadelphia, their pursuers grow in numbers, and Patrick and Sissy must fight against time and the odds to stay together—and alive.



fromblueground.com



Joe Harvey is a former teacher at *Saucon Valley Elementary School*. His first book, *From Blue Ground*, a fast-paced historical novel for middle-grade students, was recently released by publisher Sunbury Press. His short story, *Twilight of the Gods*, is scheduled to be released this winter in a climate fiction anthology, also from Sunbury Press. Joe began his career teaching music and has done historical research on the nineteenth-century Philadelphian composer, William Henry Fry. Joe is active as a teacher, writer, speaker, and musician. He holds a *Bachelor of Science in Education* from Millersville University and a *Master of Arts* from West Chester University. For more information please visit:

joeharvey.net/author-visits/