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About the Author



During her childhood, **Stephanie Reed's** family would often pass through Ripley on their way to her grandparents' home. The signs she read there about the Rankin house were what prompted her to write *Across the Wide River* and *The Light Across the River*. Stephanie is a Latchkey teacher. She worked for the Dayton (Ohio) Metro Library system for nine years. She lives with her husband and two children in Dublin, Ohio.

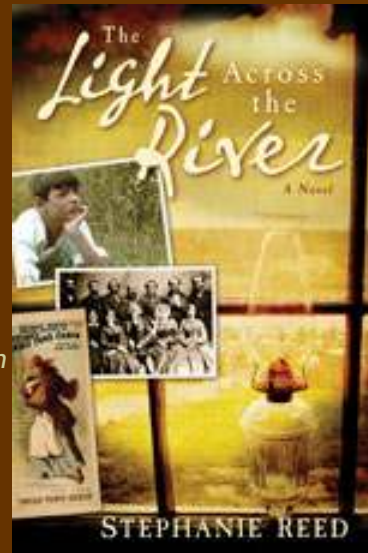


The Light Across the River:

A Novel

Stephanie Reed
Kregel, 2008
\$10.99, 216 pp, pb
ISBN: 0825435749

"This is a coming-of-age inspirational story about Johnny Rankin, an 11-year-old boy who was involved in the Underground Railroad, and Eliza, a runaway slave who was helped by Johnny's family. The Rankin family lived on the banks of the Ohio River in 1837. Johnny, seventh of thirteen children, felt he was old enough to help with the runaway slaves, but his father was reluctant to include him since Johnny had trouble keeping secrets.



Eliza was a slave from Kentucky. She was the first person Johnny was allowed to help. Little did he know as he left her at her next stop that their paths were destined to cross again.

This book is a sequel to Across the Wide River. Both are based on the lives of the Rankin family from Ripley, Ohio. Ms. Reed has researched the Rankin family and used their notes as well as other historical information to help tell an accurate and thrilling story of how these deeply religious and courageous people risked their lives to gain freedom for others. This is an excellent true-life adventure tale for teens and adults."

--Nan Curnutt, Historical Novels Review
(Issue 46, November 2008, pp40-41)

"This is a great mix of love, duty, mystery, suspense and history. The Light Across the River by Stephanie Reed was an exciting read, and definitely a page turner."

--Nicole Bonia, [Reader Views](#)

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To request a review copy of *The Light Across the River: A Novel*, or to arrange an interview, contact [Stephanie Reed](#).