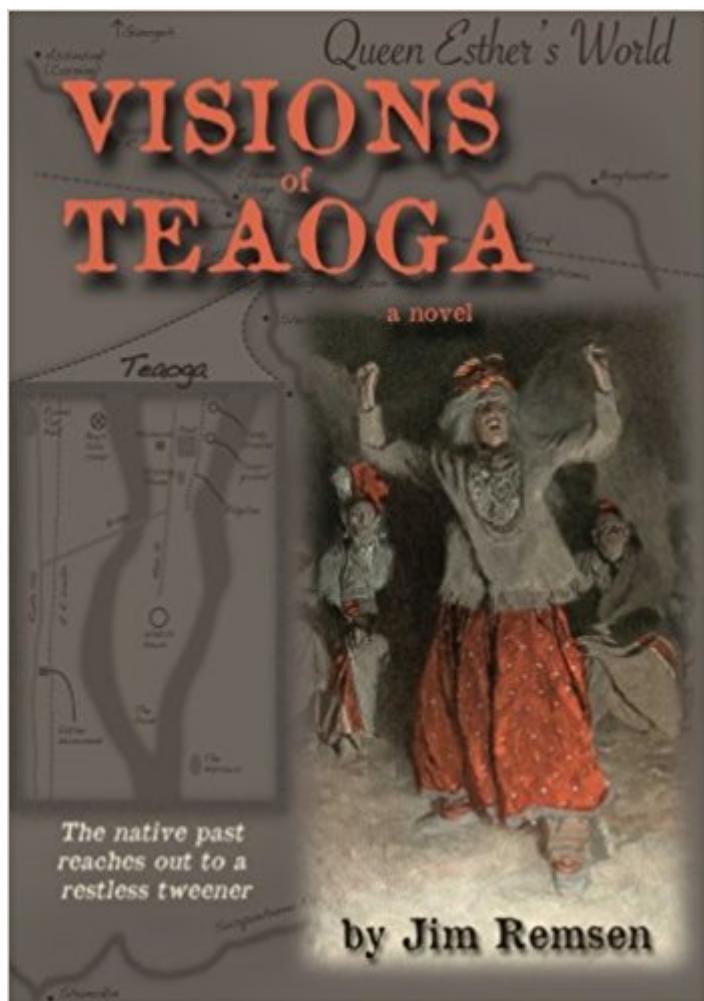


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# Visions Of Teaoga



## Synopsis

The year is 1790 and Queen Esther, a notorious American Indian matriarch, travels under cover to observe a U.S.-Iroquois summit at the ancient Teaoga treaty grounds. Will she be able to pass on her wisdom — and warnings — to the Indian villagers before the hostile settlers discover her in their midst? Will troubled native girl Sisketung awaken to Esther's truths and see how wrong-headed the brash settler girl Sarah was? Moving two centuries forward, restless tweener Maddy Winter also visits Teaoga, now a quiet riverfront town on the Pennsylvania-New York border. She tunes in to the region's dramatic lost history and soon encounters spirits in the wind. As she gains in wisdom, Maddy longs to take on Esther's mantle of the "peace woman," but will she find the courage to do right in her own life? Drawing richly from the historical record, *Visions of Teaoga* captures a world in upheaval. Readers sit at a native story circle and learn of the tensions and treachery besetting the Eastern frontier. As Maddy and her modern-day compatriots enter the story, they ponder how our history was recorded and by whom. The book is a perfect companion for middle-school history classes, with discussion questions and other supplemental materials provided on the author's website, [www.jimremsen.com](http://www.jimremsen.com).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An engrossing read that's part historical fiction, part coming-of-age novel, and part spiritual awakening." --Mary Beth McCauley, Christian Science Monitor reviewer "A fascinating, well-written,

must-read book for anyone interested in the Munsee Delaware culture and history -- and the history of American Indians in general!" -- Chief Little Soldier, Tribal Chief, Munsee Delaware Indian Nation-USA "Accurate, thought-provoking and curriculum-related. Excellent read!" --Valerie Jacoski, Former Executive Director, Tioga Point Museum"A fascinating, well-written, must-read book for anyone interested in the Munsee Delaware culture and history -- and the history of American Indians in general!" -- Chief Little Soldier, Tribal Chief, Munsee Delaware Indian Nation-USA "Accurate, thought-provoking and curriculum-related. Excellent read!" --Valerie Jacoski, Director emeritus, Tioga Point Museum

Jim Remsen is a professional writer and editor in Philadelphia, where he had a successful career at The Philadelphia Inquirer. Prior to retirement, he was newspaper's award-winning Religion Editor. He also is co-author of *The Intermarriage Handbook: A Guide for Jews and Christians* (HarperCollins), a widely used bible for mixed-faith couples. Jim, an avid student of history, stumbled onto the story of Queen Esther and the Bloody Rock while on a road trip. Deciding to bring the poignant saga to life for the young reader, he spent nearly two years researching and writing *Visions of Teaoga*. He is a member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, and the Authors Guild. To learn more about Jim, and to access educational materials about Queen Esther's world, visit his website at [www.jimremsen.com](http://www.jimremsen.com).

"Visions of Teaoga" is an excellent historical novel about the Indian Tribes in and around Northeastern Pennsylvania and the Colonials of the same area. It describes the conflicts and battles that occurred between them and amongst them, following the end of The Revolutionary War. The material is well researched. The story focuses on the real life story of Queen Esther-yes, that was her name. She was revered by the Tribes and vilified by the Colonials. Not only is it a wonderful story, it carries a message of the tragedies that ensue when we demonize the "other". The novel also tells us of a contemporary, fictitious character, Maddy, a young teenager. She visits the area and becomes totally engrossed in the history. She comes to recognize that she too excludes the other, and rationalizes her behavior. And she begins to change. Although the target audience is middle schoolers, it's a great read for everyone.

It is rare to find a book that is historically accurate, entertaining, reads like a novel and leaves you wanting to know more about our forgotten past. *Visions of Teaoga* is an exciting saga set in the

1700s. The Colonists, British and French are fighting each other and the Indians and the Indians are fighting for their land and survival. There are bloody massacres committed on all sides. The story seamlessly takes you from a vacation with a father and his teenage daughter, Maddy back to a life changing encounter with the past. When Maddy sees a roadside monument to an Indian known as Queen Esther, she is determined to find out the truth, was Queen Esther a woman of peace, a heroine or a cold blooded killer? The author has respectfully and skillfully revealed the daily life, customs, languages, ceremonies and complex societies of several tribes including the Seneca, Mohawk and Delaware. The Illustrations of Queen Esther and Chief Red Jacket remind us these were real people, the best and the worst, living their lives and building a nation. The book is written especially for a Middle-school audience but don't pass it by thinking it is a book for "kids". It's an exceptional book, one of the best and most honest books I've ever read about Native Americans. Visions of Teaoga will change the way you feel about American history. There should be a copy in every school.

Aimed at middle-schoolers, Visions of Teaoga recounts a little known time in U.S. Iroquois relations. Remsen delivers the struggle over land use, borders, and territory in a readable and engaging way by jumping between the chaotic and desperate lives of the Native Americans in the late 18th century and the contemporary discovery of this history by tween Maddy, a visitor from Texas. The key Native American figure, Queen Esther, imparts lessons that resonate deeply with Maddy, who learns about the treaties, betrayals, and often violent history that accompanied the tug-of-war over territory that spanned the Pennsylvania New York border. The historical sections are rich with Indian detail and voice. The real-life participants are well researched and beautifully drawn and the contemporary characters are delightful. Very enjoyable read.

For 50 years I lived in the area that this book is about and my family history is embedded in the region. So I just had to read it as soon as I heard about it. Visions of Teaoga is an exceptional story filled with facts and fiction. It covers Native American history and the modern day making of history. At first glance the reader might be put off by the information that book is for middle school age students. I encourage you to read on. If you live in the region or have ever lived in the region. Even if you have never even thought about Pennsylvania this is a good read. It would be wonderful gift to a local school, were ever 'Local' is to you. I immediately sent a gift of this book to a friend living in the 'Teaoga' area. I will be watching for more books from author Jim Remsen.

This book gives information on Queen Ester and Indians of the area. It is very informative and one can easily site the authors extensive research. A very easy read for all ages especially with the connection to present Bradford county. After reading it makes one want to explore the historical sites and find out more information about people mentioned in the book.

Good read and informative about the Native Americans. Probably has a young person's appeal.

Enjoyed the story but thought it to be poorly written.

I'm grateful to Jim Remsen's tale of 18th-century Teaoga for deepening my understanding of American history. I very much enjoyed reading the book--and on a recent visit to Minisink Battleground Park near the Delaware Water Gap I felt its influence on my perception of the landscape. What I learned about Teaoga helped me to contextualize the Minisink story; visiting the battlefield also gave me a sense of what Remsen has accomplished in bringing both the victims and the victors of that era to life. Had I not read the book, I would not have seen the historical record as interpreted at the park in the same way. Remsen succeeds in delving into the historical "Queen Esther" and the native American culture to which she belonged; he also succeeds in creating fictional present-day characters who become aware of their deep personal connection to that native-American past. Now I'm looking forward to the Underground Railroad book that Remsen has underway.

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