

Resource Page 3-3
Original Document
Ackowanothie, a Delaware, Speaks
1758

Directions: Read **Ackowanothie's** speech and then answer the questions.

...Brethren the English, you wonder at our joining with the French in this present War. Why can't you get sober and once think Impartially? Does not the law of Nations permit, or rather Command us all, to stand upon our guard, in order to preserve our lives, the lives of our Wives and Children, our Property and Liberty? ... I will tell you, Brethren, your Nation always shewed an eagerness to settle our Lands...we protested against it several times, but without any redress or help. [A]fter all we lost our hunting Ground, for where one of those people settled, like pidgeons, a thousand more would settle, so that we at last ... jump'd over Allegheny Hills, and settled on the waters of Ohio.

Here we tho't ourselves happy! We had plenty of Game, a rich and large Country, and a Country that the Most High had created for the poor Indians, and not for the White People. O how happy did we live here! but alas! not long. O! your covetousness for Land at the risque of so many poor souls, disturb'd our peace again....

Now ...[despite] many other abuses we suffered from our Brethren the English, yet ...there remains sparks of love... towards our Brethren the English; were we but sure that you will not take our Lands on the Ohio, or the West side of Allegheny Hills from us; we can drive away the French when we please, they have even promised to go off when we pleased, provided we would not suffer the English to take possession of the Lands, (for as the French says), we can never drive you off, you are such a numerous people; and that makes us afraid of your Army, which should not have come so nigh us, we don't know what to think of it... We still suspect you covet our Lands on the Ohio, for you come against us; but we never heard as yet what you intend to do (after you have drove away the French), with the Forts and Lands on Ohio....

Now Brethren, consider all things well, and be assured that we, the Indians, are heartily inclined to make a lasting peace with you.

Gave a large String.

...Conrad Weiser, Interpreter

Source: Ackowanothie in: *Pennsylvania Archives*, first series, Vol. III, pp. 548-550.
Online at The Ohio Valley-Great lakes Ethnohistory Archives: The Miami Collection
http://www.gbl.indiana.edu/archives/miamis11/M53-58_60a.html

1. What are Ackowanothie's complaints against the English?
2. According to Ackowanothie, why did the Delaware cross the Allegheny Mountains and settle on the "waters of the Ohio"?
3. What was the warning Ackowanothie received from the French about the English?