

## COMMUNITY

Awakened to it from the womb  
And nurtured by it at the breast,  
Dependent on it till the tomb,  
Our need beyond a cozy nest!  
Of leaves and limbs, the mother tree:  
Community! Community!

We learned from others, not alone.  
Our single self is not the rule!  
Upon a high and haughty throne,  
A reigning soul will play the fool  
By treating with audacity  
Community! Community!

We find it not in mirrored looks  
Or journals penned by our own hands.  
It thrives from reading ancient books,  
Connecting us by global bands  
To timeless waves of history:  
Community! Community!

It twirls within our work and walk,  
An earning-spending form of dance.  
It sings in chorus, lives in talk  
With those we meet by date or chance.  
This deep and daily mystery?  
Community! Community!

Life interwoven never roams  
As isolated, island deeds.  
Our neighborhoods, our schools, our homes,  
All ties of labor, commerce, creeds,  
Announce one human destiny:  
Community! Community!

— *David L. Hatton, 3/14/2016*