

Editor's Notes

In this issue of *Folio*, I am pleased to introduce the work of Martha Vertreace-Doody, excerpts from her book length manuscript titled *In this Glad Hour*. I have included Vertreace-Doody's introductory essay as an eloquent preface to her poems. Her introduction provides us with insight into the research and creative process of the poet. Additionally, through the introduction, the reader is given significant insight into the historical context and inspiration for the creative work inspired by the poet's discovery of *The Diary of Mrs. Joseph Duncan* (Elizabeth Caldwell Smith), whose life story is explored in the poems. Elizabeth was born in 1808 in New York and her diary begins in her teenage years in Newark, New Jersey, ending in 1848. Her diary records the daily life of women and the shifts in her life as she moved from a girlhood of privilege and wealth to a life as a pioneer woman and wife of an Illinois congressman. Vertreace-Doody's beautiful, moving poems have a lyric sensibility that is counter-pointed by a skillful precision with language. The poems invite the reader on a fascinating journey with Elizabeth Caldwell Smith, the mother of ten children; the reader is introduced to a woman of a different time and place, a woman whose encounters with motherhood are vividly reconstructed and powerfully re-imagined through a twenty-first century poet's words.

—Rishma Dunlop