

A Smile for the Camera

She wore the collar in the photograph

The one Marjorie would bring out
To show us part of her past
And their past now long past
Black white and tones in between
And her formal on dining room chair
right side facing slightly out
him standing upright a few inches back
left hand resting on chair's shoulder
and both in their Sunday bests
plain blouse draped with the lace collar
machine worked not by hand
plain skirt though did it have decoration
velvet line meandering below knee height?
and probably woollen, green or navy,
hair wound and bound, hands in lap
and him neat in neat suit, buttoned and bright,
waistcoat just visible topped with bow tie
a bit daring but neatly whiskered.
And both smiling, just, as time passed

That collar now well worked over the years