

<sup>5</sup>The term, "regime of ruling," is borrowed from George Smith's analysis of the regulation of homosexuals and AIDS treatment and inspired by Patty Simpson's adaptation of this term in her work on development, which she calls "the development regime." I am using the term to refer to the complex conglomerate of relations and apparatuses developed among and across nation-states to coordinate capital mobility and regulate production and labour to facilitate capital augmentation—a key development in this period of globalization.

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## JOAN BOND

### Spinster Aunt Pleasance

Tidy straight and loyal she is there  
 in duo-tone sepia at the faded edge  
 of school field trips office socials  
 family picnics christenings anni-  
 versary dinners  
 She will show you the photograph album  
 but won't tell you  
 about the boating accident five days before the  
 wedding  
 or why she dropped out of secretary school  
 nor about the scar by her right brow  
 Thirty-nine years she worked at Stacey's depart-  
 ment store  
 in the lower level Imported Foods  
 Upon retirement she received  
 a silver locket engraved  
 "O taste and see that the Lord is good"  
 and wears it every Sunday to the Methodist  
 meeting  
 Thirteen times now she's won  
 first prize at the annual fair for gooseberry jam  
 She'll let you taste it with her bourbon pound  
 cake  
 on your next visit  
 A throaty chuckle is her signature tune  
 pewter hair in a topknot arc her trademark  
 Every other Christmas she gives  
 tatted white lace doilies to her married brothers  
 She has promised her nieces  
 and the Historical Society her china  
 cabinet  
 A shrill voice will tell you the tales  
 of riding a camel in Egypt and  
 seeing the glow-worm grotto in New Zealand  
 She will show you the picture  
 of her mother and grandmother You'll  
 notice  
 the ancestral cleft chin  
 When her hands neat and nimble close the  
 album  
 you'll know the visit is over  
 She'll wave you good-bye from the porch  
 faded on the edge

Joan Bond, after living in Halifax, has returned to her prairie roots in Manitoba. Her poetry has been published in The Antigonish Review, Prairie Fire, and Other Voices.