Prologue

Suitable for all fabrics, especially for fabrics that ravel easily ... Topstitch binding to right side of hem ." from cut edge, as shown, easing it to fabric. Overlap end, turned under as shown. Place work on ironing board, wrong side out. — "Hems," page 102

She finished every hem with lace seam binding.

No hemstitcheswere ever exposed. She did this not only to ensure that no raveling of the fabric threads would occur, but also to add beauty to the garment's bottom inside edge. The pleasing veneer of the seam binding mirrored her own pattern of covering up her true feelings of sadness, shame, and resentment with outward pride, pseudoconfidence, and pleasant conversation.