

Michael Macdonald

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Sent: 21 September 2001 21:45
Subject: Re Jamesina/Jemasina-again!

I thought I had resolved this, but I was wrong again,

It is certain that in contemporary family records Jamesina was also spelt Jemasina, but it seems clear that she was christened Jamesina. The evidence for this lies in her Anniversary book of Red Letter Days, a Christmas present from her husband in 1885 when they were living in Worcester, Cape Colony. Against 14 January she has recorded (the handwriting is certainly hers) Jamesina Frederica (Ina) Woolley 1852. It is natural that one of the first entries should be her own birthday, possibly slightly eccentric that she should use her married name and interesting that she was then known familiarly as Ina, a name she bestowed on her fifth child in 1881. However, in the Woolley family bible (in the hands of the Moore family) she is recorded as Jemasina, as also in the original version of the Carmichael family tree drawn up by her husband (held by you) and in the record of her death.

She was evidently known in later years as Jem and Aunt Jem, but the inscription on her grave at Muizenberg cemetery is simply Ina F. Woolley. Perhaps a diplomatic solution?

Love,
 Mike

Aunt Esther, Jane Dodderell, Jane's sister, loved news of scandal. When she was aged 12 was staying with Aunt Jane who had decided to stir up any enjoyment in scandal for her. Two ladies called, announcing that they had the "most wonderful scandal" to relate. To Esther's astonishment and abiding admiration, Aunt Jane lifted her hand and said, "wait until I have left the room before you say a word." She really did hold to her Victorian resolution. Esther was sent out of the room herself!

17/9/03