

A letter from Madarasz--printed in the same issue of Business Journal I just wrote about--indicates Madarasz was born in 1859, not 1860. Am I seeing things? Or should I go back to elementary school for some remedial arithmetic? Or, does a young Louis Madarasz forget how old he is? Or, was it custom to call yourself 17 during the year following your 16th birthday, ie the year prior to your 17th birthday? I know, this reminds one of the millennium debate (2000 or 2001?). But at least we know that the custom was different in Jesus's time, yes? But in the late 1800's???

Help!!!

I'm posting the letter, but in case you cannot read it well, here's what it says:

"San Antonio, Texas

June 21st, 1876

W. E. Dennis

Chester, N. H.

Dear Sir

Pardon my writing you, but

I saw your name in the Penman's Gazette

as being the best penman of the day for

your age ie 16 Prof Gaskell hit the

mark this time) I think so too.

Would you

like to correspond with me, for it has always

been my wish to correspond with a good pen-

man, but the old saying is it takes to come

to an understanding, if so please write.

Awaiting your reply

I am Sir

Respectfully

L. Madarasz

P.S. I am 17 yrs of age

Truly L. Madarasz"

Sooooo, in June of 1876 Madarasz was "17 years of age." I think that this would lead back to an 1859 birth date??? (While it would be correct to state that he was in his 17th year of life, would it have been custom to claim the age of 17 prior to one's 17th birthday??? We've already seen that in the Madarasz Book, it indicates 1859. On his death certificate, it says 1860. In William Henning's book it [was] listed as 1859. On the urn holding his ashes, it says 1860. But here in this letter, it states what amounts to a date of 1859.