**Gaius Mucius “Scaevola”**

Gaius Mucius was a young aristocrat during the time when the Etruscans had surrounded the city of Rome to attack it. Mucius volunteered himself to the Senate and sneaked out of the city in and attempt to assassinate the Etruscan king, Porsena.

Unfortunately, after he had sneaked into the enemy camp, Mucius made his way to the king’s tent, but there were two people dressed exactly the same, one sitting in place and one handing money to the troops. Unsure, Mucius killed the man handing out money, thinking that a king was give money to his own soldiers. After killing the man, Porsena’s men captured Mucius and brought him to the one left alive, who was actually the king and was confused. He asked Mucius why he killed the king’s scribe. When Mucius answered (truthfully) that he was trying to kill Porsenna and simply killed the worng man, the king was furious.

Porsenna ordered a fire to be lit and threatened Mucius that he would be burned to death if he did not reveal Roman secrets. Mucius responded: “See how cheap men hold their bodies when they care only for honor! This is what Romans are willing to do to themselves, think about what we will do to your own armies!” and thrust his own right hand into the fire, and stared at the king as it burned. Porsena was so impressed that he freed Mucius, who would be forever known as Scaevola, Latin for “Left-Handed Man.”