

# **THE CHILD'S FIRST HISTORY OF ROME**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649547036

The Child's First History of Rome by E. M. Sewell

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**E. M. SEWELL**

**THE CHILD'S FIRST  
HISTORY OF ROME**



THE CHILD'S

67 Y<sup>6</sup>

FIRST HISTORY OF ROME.

BY

E. M. SEWELL.

AUTHOR OF "AMY HERBERT," ETC. ETC.

E

NEW YORK:  
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY,  
549 & 551 BROADWAY.

1878.

F-11

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

289377B

ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

1944

---

PRINTED, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1848,  
By D. APPLETON & CO.,  
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States  
for the Southern District of New York.

---

# THE CHILD'S FIRST HISTORY OF ROME.

---

## CHAPTER I.

### THE FOUNDATION OF ROME,

B. C. 753.

B. C. 1164 to 753. 1. If we desire to understand the history of any country, that is, what happened to the people who lived in it in years past, we must begin by learning where the country itself is, and what it is like.

2. The history of Rome is the history of a people who once dwelt in Italy, and, being extremely brave, fought against other nations and conquered them, and at last became the masters of a great part of the world. We shall find Italy in the map of Europe—Germany and Switzerland lie to the north of it; the Adriatic Sea bounds it on the east; and the Mediterranean on the south and west. Its shape is curious, something like a man's boot.

3. Italy is a very beautiful country; it is much warmer there than in England; the winds are softer, the sky is of a deeper blue, and many lovely flowers and shrubs bloom in the open air, which we are obliged to keep carefully in green-houses. A high range of mountains, called the Apennines, runs through it from north to south; and below these

mountains there are smooth lakes and fertile valleys, amongst which grow corn and vines, orange groves and mulberry-trees, and all which can really be desired to support and make life pleasant. Italy has often been called the garden of the world.

4. It is natural for us to wish to know who first inhabited this beautiful country—who governed the people and made laws for them—but it is very difficult to find out the truth; and when we read the stories which are commonly told upon these subjects, we must remember that we cannot be as certain of them as we are of things which have happened in later years. All that we can really be sure of is, that in very ancient times Italy was divided into a great many little states, and that the inhabitants were continually fighting with each other. As to their religion they were heathens, and worshipped false gods; but they were very particular in keeping up all their religious customs and ceremonies, much more so indeed than many persons in these days who say they believe in the True God.

5. One of the principal of these Italian States was called Latium, and its chief city was Alba Longa, or the long white city. Alba is said to have been built by the son of Æneas, a famous prince, who settled in Italy after escaping from Troy, a city in Asia Minor, which was taken by the Greeks about the year B. C. 1184. There were many kings of Alba whom we know nothing about; but we are told at last of two brothers, Numitor and Amulius, who both wished to have the crown. Numitor was the rightful king; but Amulius was the braver and richer, and by giving the people money, he persuaded them to help him in taking possession of his brother's throne, and compelling him to live like a common person. Amulius could not have been happy after doing such a wicked thing; he began to fear lest, some day



or other, the children of Numitor might try to take his crown as he had taken their father's; and in order to be safe he killed Numitor's sons, and obliged his daughter, who was called Rhea Silvia, to be a vestal virgin. Vestal virgins were women whose duty it was to attend to the religious services in the temple of Vesta, one of the heathen goddesses. One of their chief duties was to take care that a particular fire, which was considered sacred, should never be allowed to go out. There was a very strict law against their marrying and having children, and Amulius supposed, therefore, that if he made Rhea Silvia a vestal virgin, there would be no fear of any one after her trying to do him harm.

6. In spite, however, of this strict law, Rhea Silvia had two little sons—they were twins, born at the same time. Amulius was exceedingly angry when he heard it, and made up his mind directly that the poor children should be killed. There was a deep river, the Tiber, which flowed by his city, and he ordered them to be thrown into it. Perhaps he thought that when the dark waters had hidden them from sight they would be forgotten, and no one would ask who murdered them. The servants of Amulius did as they were told; they put the two little infants into a basket and took them to the river, and there they laid them down in the cold stream and left them alone to die. Just at that time the waters of the Tiber had overflowed its banks, and covered part of the land near. The basket was carried down the river till it reached a part where the water was not very deep, and then it rested upon the ground; and so the poor children were saved from drowning.

7. There was no one, however, to feed them, or take care of them, and they must still have died if they had remained there. But it happened (or, if

the story be really true, we must say it was ordered by God) that Faustulus, a shepherd, found the two little babies and had pity upon them, and carried them home to his wife, and told her that she must nurse them and bring them up with his own children, and he gave them the names of Romulus and Remus.

8. All this time Amulius supposed they were dead, and that he was quite safe; but God, who punishes wicked heathens as well as Christians, did not allow him to escape. A great many years however went by; Amulius was still king of Alba, and his brother Numitor lived near him, without having riches or power, and very unhappy, no doubt for the loss of his children; and Romulus and Remus grew up to be young men, and were thought to be the sons of the shepherd Faustulus. They used to spend a great part of their time in feeding cattle upon the hills and in fighting against robbers, and this made them very brave and hardy. Numitor also had some flocks and herds which fed on the mountains, and one day there was a quarrel between his herdsmen and Romulus and Remus. Remus was taken prisoner, and the shepherd carried him off to Numitor, imagining that he would be very angry with him. But Numitor liked what he saw of Remus extremely; he thought him a fine, noble young man, and asked several questions as to who he was, and where he came from; and at last he began to suspect that perhaps he might be one of the little twins who were supposed to have been drowned in the river Tiber. Of course he was quite certain of it when he heard all about him from Faustulus; and soon it was known by every one that Romulus and Remus were the grandsons of Numitor.

9. Then the two young princes determined not to let Amulius be king any longer, and they brought

together all their friends and companions, and attacked the city. Amulius did his best to save himself, but he could not succeed, for Romulus came to his palace, and forced his way through the guards, and at length found his uncle and killed him. Numinator was then proclaimed king again.

10. Romulus and Remus were not contented to live quietly at Alba after this; they had a great wish to build a city for themselves. Their grandfather allowed them to follow their own will, and they left Alba and set out with some followers to find a place which would suit them. A spot was discovered amongst some hills, not very far from Alba, which they thought would do; but when they had fixed upon it, they could not agree as to which of them should begin the work. So they determined to settle the question by consulting an augur. Augurs were persons who pretended to decide what ought to be done by observing such things as the flight of birds, or by examining the appearance of the entrails of beasts after they were sacrificed. The heathens supposed that their gods declared their will by such signs. Some appearances were thought to be good auguries, others bad ones. The augurs in Italy had a great deal of respect paid to them, so that it was natural for Romulus and Remus to go to them when they could not settle a question for themselves.

11. A particular day was named for consulting the augur, and Romulus and Remus stood upon different hills to watch for what would appear to them. It is said that Remus saw six vultures first, and Romulus twelve afterwards. The augurs declared that Romulus had the best omen, and that he was to begin building the city; and so he did, and called it Rome. He marked out the size by yoking a bull and a cow to a plough, which, as it went along, made furrows where the walls were to be built; but the plough was lifted up