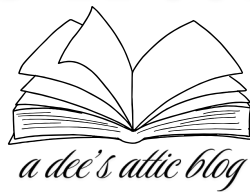


# All About BOOKS



July 21st, 2025

FIRST AND FOREMOST – WOW! Dee's Attic Book Sale is going VERY WELL – you've shown up and bought A LOT!! And, yes, we are very happy and (we're sure you are too!) - just think there's still time to do MORE – Yea! You've got until August 2nd AND as to your donations to the book store, we couldn't be happier. Love this community spirit!! You're the best – the ebb and flow is so appreciated!!

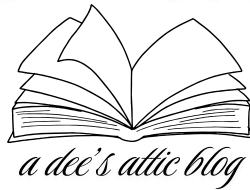
So decided to review how our communication with the community is going, and let you know we've now been sharing this blog with you for about two months. Imagine our surprise when we thought we'd see if there was anyone out there actually reading it – lo and behold, there are 739 of you following – very definitely, not too shabby a beginning for a small Northern Neck community. WE thank you, one and all! You've been very kind in confirming you are interested in 'All About Books' and the tidbits we share and the 'data' says – (drumroll) – a great beginning! Thanks!!

So onward we go – we also found though, you are a wee bashful in answering questions posed on American history, so, for a while mind you, we will not do this. This time around we'll just share the answers and move on. Here you go - Questions posed from 6/23 – How did WE first become “the city on the hill?” Who said it first? ANSWER: John Winthrop's "city on a hill" sermon, delivered aboard the ship Arbella in 1630, envisioned the Massachusetts Bay Colony as a model Christian community that would serve as an example for the world. The phrase, taken from Matthew 5:14, signified a beacon of righteousness and a place where God's will would be manifest. This concept has since become a central idea in American exceptionalism, the belief that the United States is unique and holds a special place in history.

And the second person some 331 years later on 1/9/1961 – eleven days before his inauguration, John F. Kennedy spoke to the Massachusetts legislature at the state house in Boston about the flagship, Arbella and quoted John Winthrop word for word. And that's the story until of course, you know what I'm going to say - Ronald Reagan embellished it a wee bit – to the “Shining city on the hill.”

And the second question, AND, who said, “A republic, if you can keep it?” ANSWER: Is attributed to Benjamin Franklin in 1787 and reflects the idea that a democratic republic, like the one established by the U.S. Constitution, is not self-sustaining

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and requires active participation and vigilance from its citizens to endure. It highlights the fragility of such a system and the ongoing effort required to maintain its principles of liberty, self-governance, and the rule of law.

We posed these questions due to our recognizing from the time John Winthrop was talking about “the city on the hill” (1630) and Benjamin Franklin saying, “A republic, if we can keep it!” (1787) was the sum total of 156-7 years of our ancestors living under British rule and our declaring our independence in 1776 - just think about the generations from then to now – where do WE ALL STAND NOW? Next year will be the celebration of 250 years of BEING the United States of America. And then think, do we want to go back to that? Do we not realize what we’ve accomplished as a country? – it’s true, we aren’t perfect though we attempt each and every day to be a better people, right?

Ok, let’s change the subject to “All About Books” - interesting tidbit from one of our patrons and we feel sure we all grapple with this, how do we keep track of all the books we read? We each have our methods, mine is keeping them on the phone though our patron says the Good Reads app will do this for you, so I’m game to try this. How about you? They’ll even make book suggestions for you as well. Ok, then... yea!

In closing, I feel I must relay to each of you readers of our blog, there isn’t a timeframe when I volunteer in Dee’s Attic Bookstore when I’m not as happy as a clam that I’ve had the privilege of showing up for my 2, 3 or 4 hours of volunteering. I learn something every time I’m here, from your telling me about a product that helps with coughing to the above – thank you!!

Oops! Book suggestions – ‘The God of the Woods’ by Liz Moore (Goodreads 4.1/5) and ‘Eruption’ by Michael Crichton and James Patterson (Goodreads 3.8/5) – there’s another story, too – as Michael Crichton transitioned in 2008. These were ‘could not put down gems,’ for me.

Until we blog again, ladies and gentlemen, we look forward to seeing you...

Dee’s Attic Bookstore  
Staff and Volunteers