



MABEL
ANSLEY
MURPHY

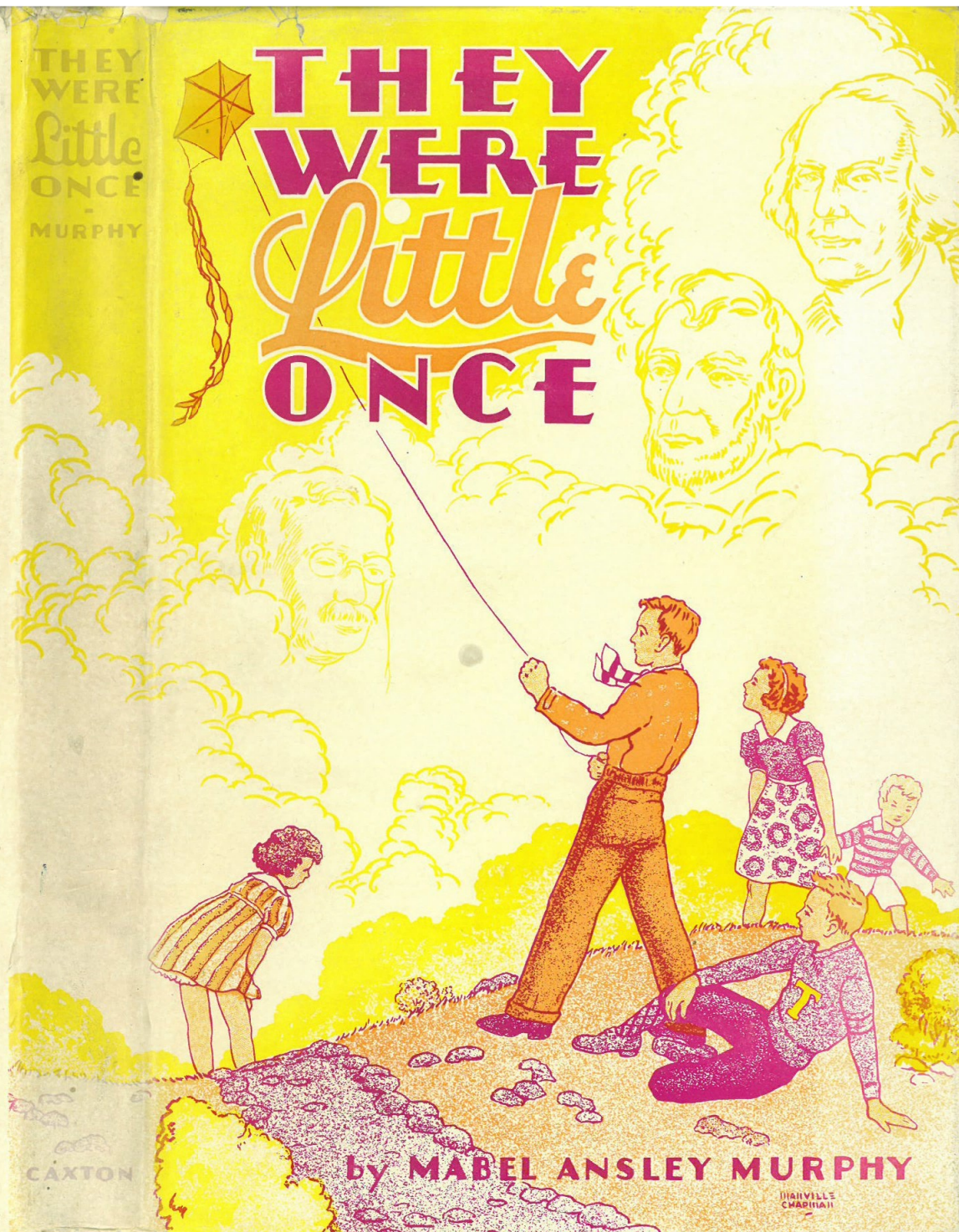
MABEL ANSLEY MURPHY began her literary career in 1920 when she published *Greathearted Women*, and has since published many books, mostly about eminent American figures. She has written numerous articles on travel and religious education. Under the pen-name of Anne S. Lee she conducted a book page for five years for *Holland's Magazine*, Dallas, Texas.

Mrs. Murphy is a graduate of the State Teachers' College, Indiana, Pennsylvania. She has also done special work at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, and at Columbia University.

Mrs. Murphy adopts the child's simple language, and makes live once again in the hearts of small children those people who have contributed much in making the world what it is today.



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In the pages of Mabel Ansley Murphy's *THEY WERE LITTLE ONCE* are found twenty-two incidents from the childhood of world-famous people. In these stories the children appear much as ordinary youngsters, and this is the clue to their fascination for the child reader who comes to realize that the great persons of the world are, after all, human beings like themselves. Characters who have brought the great gifts of their talent and personality to mankind are revealed in moments of childhood play and work, and each story provides the young reader, in terms he can understand, an appreciation of the genius portrayed. It is from such simple understanding that a later study and grasp of the significance of great historical figures can arise.





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Twenty-two great persons of the past—among them Robert Louis Stevenson, Jenny Lind, Theodore Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin — appear in scenes from their childhood in this book. Though these are incidents that might occur in the life of any child the stories reveal that early in life the individuality and genius of a great person are already conspicuously formed. But these are general elements of character that every child should try to emulate. Because the great world figure is brought close to the child reader he is more likely to respond to the lesson each one of these great men and women has brought to the world.