**November 13, 2018**

**For Immediate Release**



The History of New York is the History of America™

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**Willa Cather finally gets her due.**

(Warwick, NY) Before she became a Pulitzer-prize winning novelist, Willa Cather was the ghost writer for *My Autobiography*, a book about the life of literary titan S.S. McClure (HVA Press, November 2018, paperback). When the book was first published in 1914, Cather received no credit for her role.

Today the tables have turned, and as McClure's name slowly faded from modern memory, Willa Cather rose to the pinnacle of 20th century American fiction. HVA Press publisher Gavin Caruthers says, "While the fact that Cather was the uncredited writer of the book is known among scholars and some fans, I don't believe most of us in the general public know it. To celebrate her 145th birthday on December 7th, we are giving Willa Cather equal billing in the role she played in writing McClure's story."

S.S. McClure's story is a rags-to-riches tale of an Irish immigrant who introduced to the American public such greats as Arthur Conan Doyle, Jack London and Robert Louis Stevenson, as well as Maria Montessori. McClure also invented investigative journalism, which still plays a critical role in today's media. Caruthers adds, "When McClure's life is told by a writer of Cather's caliber, it makes a fascinating tale that much more compelling to read."

Willa Cather was the Managing Editor of *McClure's Magazine* before she left to pursue her writing full-time in 1912. That same year McClure asked her to write *My Autobiography*. He paced the room and talked while she wrote. Cather said that in *My Autobiography* she had painted portrait of McClure, "Better and truer than McClure himself."

When *My Autobiography* was originally published, *The New York Times* said, “What a light this life of his throws on our country, with its difficulties and its opportunities. The book is as tonic as a mountain climb, as wholesome, as optimistic, and as genuine."

**About HVA Press**

HVA Press, located in Warwick, New York, was founded in 2017. HVA Press is dedicated to publishing works about our local area. All HVA Press books are available wherever books are sold. <http://www.hvapress.com/>

See the publisher's recent TV interview about the MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY on John Bailey's "People to be Heard" here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rElmrQVIWOU

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