



November 2020 Book:

## "Wrought With Steadfast Will: History of Emma Willard School"

by Trudy J. Hanmer

Spring in Troy in 1870 was unusually warm, and by early April the Leaves in Seminary Park were green and displayed a fullness not usually seen before May. The entire winter had been mild; for the first time since records began in 1789, navigation on the Hudson had not been suspended because of ice. The warm weather had not been healthy for Mrs. Emma Willard. After a winter of recurring illness, she was sick again, unable to venture from her rooms. In the fall she had given up her house on Ferry Street and had moved into the seminary building to be closer to her son and his family. On April 5, she wrote her last letter, addressed to her sister, Almira Phelps, in Baltimore. The next day she made an entry in her diary, scrawling in a feeble hand that showed few traces of her trademark copperplate penmanship, "have my prayers alone, read the newspapers."

### **The Author**

Trudy J. Hanmer is associate head emerita of Emma Willard School. As associate head of school for thirty years, she played a variety of roles, including director of college counseling, director of admissions, and member of the history department. During 1986-1987 and 1989-1990 she served as acting head of school. In spite of these commitments, however, from her earliest days on the campus she was fascinated by the school's history and determined someday to capture that history in a book. *Wrought With Steadfast Will* is the result. Ms Hanmer earned a B.A. in United States Studies from Wellesley College and an M.A. in American History from the University of Virginia.