

Col. Stevens Sir, as you are soon to leave the Superintendance of the ^{Albany} House-^{prison} as the unfortunate inmates of the Albany House to express all that we can give - our warmest and heart-felt gratitude for the unremitting exertions which you have at all times made for the comfort of the unfortunate - and for your universally urban^{and} gentlemanly conduct both as an officer and a man. we wish you and your family happiness.

Respectfully your H^{umble} Servant

Wm. Richards

Gabriel Sherry^{sr}

John Lawler

James Finney

Albany House

Isaac Vantassel

George Fullmer^{sr}

Daniel Sewler

A. Freeman
Stephen Callaway

Wm. Osborn
C. Tuttle

Samuel Rose

Edward Robb

Jas. Henderson

Wm. Sewell

Richard Cullen

Moses L. Foster
Joseph Cash

For and in behalf of inmates of this house
 Bellows Falls House May 25. 1835

Colonel Linus W. Stevens

[Letter]: Note of Gratitude Addressed to Superintendent Colonel Stevens Signed by the Inmates of Bellevue Alms House

[New York]: 1835

\$650

Single page letter. Measuring 7½" x 10½". Creased from mailing with some spotting else near fine. A letter written as a short note of gratitude Signed by the inmates at Bellevue Alms House to the superintendent, Colonel Linus W. Stevens, upon his retirement from the position. The letter reads: "Col. Stevens Sir, as you are soon to leave the superintendence of the Alms House - permit us the unfortunate inmates of the Alms House to express all that we can give - Our warmest and heartfelt gratitude for the unremitting exertions which you have at all times made for the comfort of the unfortunate - and for your universally urbane and gentlemanly conduct as an officer and a man. We wish you and your family happiness. Respectfully yours." The bottom two thirds of the letter include the signatures of the "inmates" of the institution and is dated May 29, 1835 along the side of the letter.

This almshouse is most likely the predecessor of New York's Bellevue Hospital. The original Alms House was thought to have been an improvement over the earlier primitive "barber surgeon" practices in place before the institute. Eventually the Alms House was moved to a former mansion, Belle Vue, and provided, at the time, state of the art medical care including early uses of ambulance. By 1931 the hospital was overshadowed by the reputation of the psychiatric wing of Bellevue. Colonel Linus W. Stevens was a member of the New York National Guard and served on the Alms House board until 1836. He died at the age of 70 in 1848.

An interesting letter representing early medical care in New York. [\[BTC#420510\]](#)