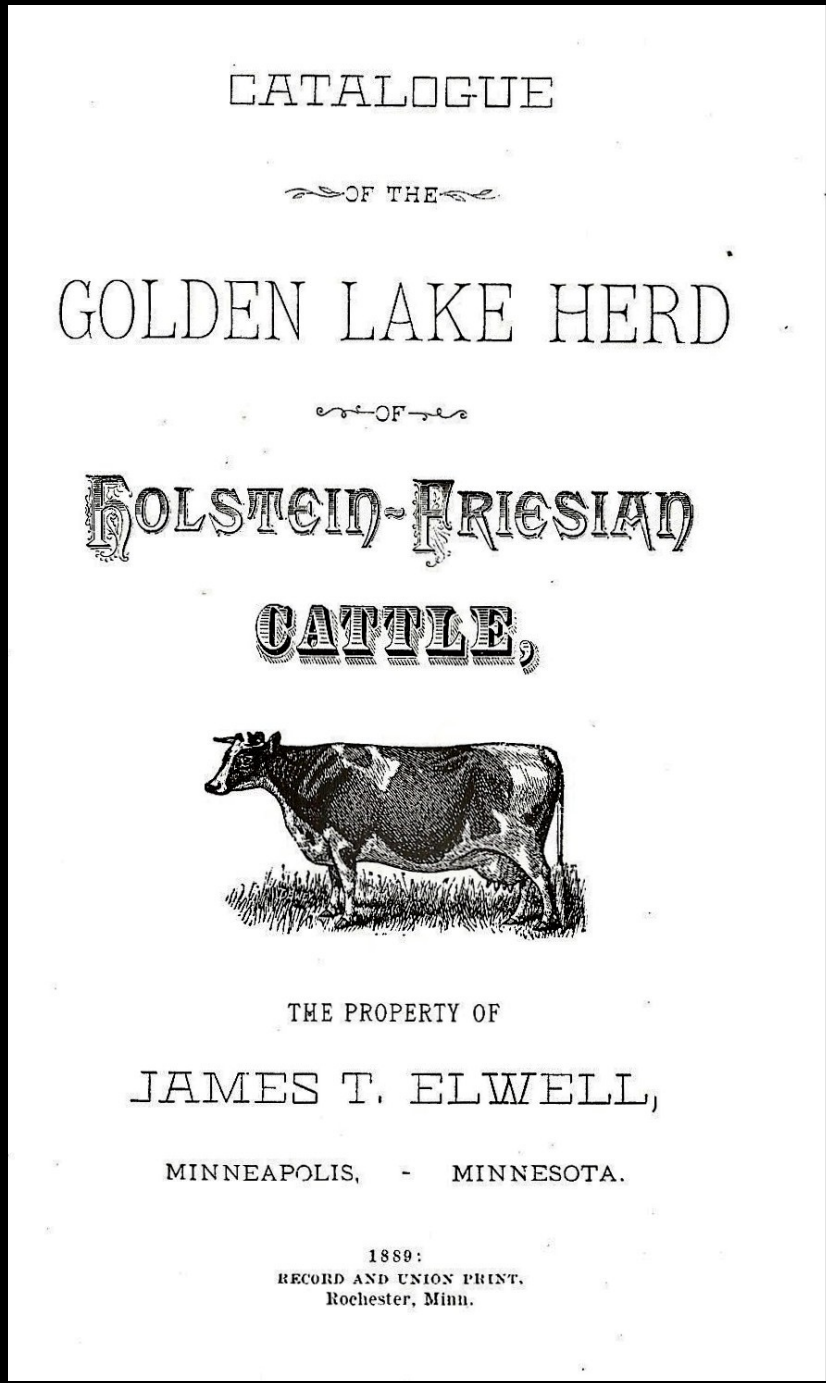


James T. Elwell

Farmer, Businessman & Servant of the State



“Elwell Grade”, built between Oak Leaf and Golden Lake Stock Farms—photo circa 1892.



Cover from catalog of stock auction, Golden Lake Farm.

The Anoka Union newspaper editorialized, “...the gentleman proved himself the farmer’s friend and we of this county are to be congratulated upon having such men as J.T. Elwell among us.”



Young James Elwell—circa 1892.

JAMES T. ELWELL
Candidate for a Second Term in the State Senate
Primaries—September 20th

Under our present system every citizen has an equal voice in the selection of his party's candidates—the choice of proper candidates is of the highest importance. It is the duty of every citizen to vote at the primaries.

Five reasons why Mr. Elwell should be returned to the senate:

1. His past record deserves such endorsement.
2. He is a true representative of the people.
3. He has been a most efficient worker for the University.
4. He has the endorsement of two non-partisan bodies whose sole interest is to secure good men. The Citizen's League says:

“He Stood Conspicuously for the People.”

The Saturday Lunch Club: “He has taken a firm and aggressive stand against special interests.”

5. Those who are most closely in touch with the University feel that the election of Mr. Elwell, at this time, is of the highest importance.

Campaign literature supporting Elwell’s election to second Senate term — 1908.



Barns at Golden Lake Farm.

Letterhead from Mpls. Furniture Company

Thanks and acknowledgement for source material and support

Cathy Elwell Stephen Lee

Anoka County Historical Society

SE Como Improvement Assn

ELWELL TIMELINE	
1855 (July 2)	Born on a farm in St. Anthony to Tallmadge & Margaret (Miller) Elwell
1872 ca.	Invented and patented a spring bed
1873	Established the Minneapolis Furniture Company and the Minneapolis Bedding Company with his father and brother, George – Eventually sold interests to his brother and C. M. Way
1882 (June 28)	Married Lizzie Emma Alden – 9 children between 1883 and 1896
1882	Entered the real estate business by purchasing large tracts of land along Como Avenue and East Hennepin in SE Minneapolis – Laid out streets, built 55 houses, brought water, gas, telephone and horse-drawn streetcar lines to the new development – focused on middle-class, single-family homes
1886	Purchased 52,700 acres of land in Anoka County with real estate profits – Established two stock farms, Golden Lake Farm in Blaine Township and Oak Leaf Farm in Ham Lake
1888	Petition granted to construct 8 mile road between his two farms, using ditching method, at \$1,000 per mile of his own expense – Known as the Elwell Grade, now Lexington Avenue
1889 (Fall)	One of occasional stock auctions, to reduce the number of animals to be wintered on Golden Lake Farm—”among them ... some of the best bloods in Minnesota ”
1893 (April)	Panic of 1893 and tax burdens devastated Elwell farming interests – lost most of his land and moved his family from Minneapolis to Golden Lake Farm
1899 – 1900	Served 1 term in Minnesota House of Representatives while on Golden Lake Farm
1901	Moved family back to SE Minneapolis (house demolished or moved in 1969)
1907 – 1915	Served 3 full terms and 1 partial term in the Minnesota Senate in Minneapolis – Chief legislative interests were for good roads and expansion of the University of Minnesota
1911	Introduced the landmark “Elwell Road Law”, providing for rural highway expansion – Law was repealed in 1915, only after 1,000 miles of highway built
1928	Suffered a paralytic stroke
1933 (Aug 10)	Died in his sleep at the age of 78 – buried at Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis