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James George Lee Steere

Principal Honours Knight (1888), Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG) (1898)

Birth Date: 4 July 1830
Place: Ockley, Surrey, England, United Kingdom

Arrival in WA Arrived WA 1860

Parents Son of Lee and Anne Watson

Marriage and Family Married 16 June 1859, St John's Church, Hampstead, London to Catherine Ann Leake (born circa July 1834 and died circa November 1922), daughter of Luke and Mary Ann Walpole
Children: six sons and nine daughters

Death Date: 1 December 1903
Place: St George's Tce, Perth, Western Australia
Cemetery: Karrakatta Cemetery, WA
Cause of Death:

Religion Church of England

Education Private schooling at Thames Ditton and Clapham Grammar School

Occupation Farmer and seaman

Employment History Merchant marine 1845–1858, commenced as midshipman

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From 1854 commander of Devonshire (East Indiaman)
 Purchased Jayes station (100,000 acres) in Blackwood district

House MLA

Local Government Service Blackwood Road Board, first chairman

Party Independent; Ministerialist

Date Elected 28 November 1890

Inaugural Speech



[Lee Steere, James George, Inaugural Speech.pdf](#)

Inaugural Video

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Valedictory Speech

Year Retired/Resigned 1903

Electorate Wellington, Swan, Nelson

Parliamentary Service [Electoralates](#)

- MLC Wellington 9 November 1870–13 February 1880
- Swan 22 May 1880 (by-election)–24 October 1884 (resigned)
- Nominated MLC 11 July 1885–21 October 1890
- MLA Nelson 28 November 1890–1 December 1903

Office

- Speaker Legislative Assembly 30 December 1890–1 December 1903

Miscellaneous

- Delegate to several meetings of Federal Council 1885–1899; at 1891 and 1897–1898 Federal Conventions

Private Member's Bills

Background/Membership Justice of the Peace, 1862
 Member Board of Education 1867
 Foundation secretary Southern District Agricultural Society
 Resided in Perth 1870–1878 and after 1888
 Chairman WA Trustee and Executive and Agency Company

Many company directorships
 President Weld Club circa 1897–1901
 First chairman of trustees WA Museum, Art Gallery and Public Library 1895-1903
 Governor Perth Boys' High School 1876–1903

Qualifications

References D Black and G Bolton, eds, *Biographical Register of Members of the Parliament of Western Australia: volume one 1870-1930*, Parliamentary History Project, Perth, WA, 2001, p. 186.

Further Information G. C. Bolton, 'Steere, Sir James George Lee (1830–1903)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/steere-sir-james-george-lee-8639/text15097>, published first in hardcopy 1990, accessed online 11 January 2016.

Dictionary of Western Australians 1829–1914, Vol. 5, *The Golden Years 1889–1914*, Nedlands: University of Western Australia Press, 1986.

C. Murray, 'Sir James George Lee Steere'; *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia*, December 1945.

P. Tannock, 'Sir James Lee Steere' (unpublished Ph.D. thesis, 1975)

Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia Anon. P.H.W. Thiel: Perth, 1901, p. 36.

West Australian, 3 December 1903.

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Parliament of Western Australia is honoured to be situated on the ancestral lands of the Whadjuk Noongar people. The Parliament acknowledges the First Australians as the traditional owners of the lands we represent and pays respects to their Elders both past and present.

