**About the Author**

James Orton Wheeler was born on March 7, 1938, in Muncie Indiana. His first given name is from his maternal Grandfather James Thomas McCreery; his second from his maternal Grandfather, Orton Franklin Wheeler. His last name, also a given name, is derived from the tradition of taking one’s father’s last name. With slightly different customs, his last name might just as readily have been Anderson, Brown, Coffin, Dennis, McCreery, or Thompson. Assuming no inbreeding among his recent ancestors, he figures he has 1,024 ancestors going back only ten generations and 32, 768 going back 15 generations (2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024, 2048, 4096, 8192, 16,384, 32,768). If a generation is 20 years, 15 generations is only 300 years. So much for his genealogy.

The author attended Royerton Schools (1944-1956). He holds the B.S. from Ball State Teachers College (1959), the M.A. (1964) and Ph.D. (1966) from Indiana University. Since 1971 he has been a professor at the University of Georgia.