**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, and what a comment on those who do not believe in evolution.

The author attended Royerton Schools (1944-1956). He holds the B.S. from Ball State Teachers College (1959) with a major in English. He then taught English for one year at Jackson County Junior High School in Arcadia, Indiana (1959-1960), followed by a one-year job teaching English at Wendell Willkie High School in Elwood, Indiana. Wendell Willkie, from Elwood, was of course the failed presidential candidate in 1940. He then obtained the M.A. (1964) and Ph.D. (1966) in geography from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. He taught all three years during which he was a graduate student, and then taught one year at Ohio State University as an instructor while he was writing his dissertation. He then taught two years at Western Michigan University (1965-1967) and then four years at Michigan State University. In 1971 he accepted a faculty position at the University of Georgia. He retired in 1999, and he continues to occupy an office at the University. He taught 40 years.