



# Lost States: True Stories of Texlahoma, Transylvania, and Other States That Never Made It

*Michael J. Trinklein*

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Everyone knows the fifty nifty united states—but what about the hundreds of other statehood proposals that never came to pass? *Lost States* is a tribute to such great unrealized dreams as West Florida, Texlahoma, Montezuma, Rough and Ready, and Yazoo. Some of these states came remarkably close to joining the Union. Others never had a chance. Many are still trying. Consider:

- Frontier legend Daniel Boone once proposed a state of Transylvania in the Appalachian wilderness (his plan was resurrected a few years later with the new name of Kentucky).
- Residents of bucolic South Jersey wanted to secede from their urban north Jersey neighbors and form the fifty-first state.
- The Gold Rush territory of Nataqua could have made a fine state—but since no women were willing to live there, the settlers gave up and joined California.

Each story offers a fascinating glimpse at the nation we might have become—along with plenty of absurd characters, bureaucratic red tape, and political gamesmanship. Accompanying these tales are beautifully rendered maps detailing the proposed state boundaries, plus images of real-life artifacts and ephemera. Welcome to the world of *Lost States*!

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