The origins of Montana's militia dates to 1867, when a politically ambitious acting governor, Thomas Francis Meagher, organized frontiersmen in response to probably unjustified, but genuinely felt, fear of Plains Indian incursions into the territory's mining camps and other settled regions. After establishing posts on the upper Missouri, the volunteers set out to engage with “hostiles” that never materialized. Within months, the unruly troops were disbanded after mutiny in the ranks, their harsh punishment of supposed horse thieves, and disputes over federal provisioning of the militia, which left the government with a hefty bill. Afterward, the U.S. Army took the forefront in managing Indian affairs in the region.