In early July 1874, Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, in violation of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, led a thousand-man expedition into the Black Hills. He was under U.S. government orders to find a good location for a military post. Miners accompanied Custer’s military forces. By mid-July Custer reported the presence of gold and within a year, more than a thousand miners had streamed into the Black Hills—territory that belonged to the Lakota (Sioux).