

Appendix 2

Augusta ("Ohma") Kohrs obituary, published in *The Helena Independent Record*, 1 November 1945, p. 6.

Montana Historical Society.

"Funeral Services Conducted for Mrs. Augusta Kohrs; Interment is in Deer Lodge

"Philanthropic Pioneer Woman Died Oct. 29 at 96 years of age after long and colorful career.

"Funeral Services for Mrs. Augusta Kohrs, 96, widow of the late Montana cattle king, vigilante, pioneer, stockman, banker and philanthropist, Conrad Kohrs, who died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. M. Anna Boardman, 702 Madison were conducted at the Boardman residence yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The Rev. Emil Ziegler officiated.

"Pallbearers were A. T. Hibbard, Howard Schuyler, E. G. Toomey, George Grossberg, Earl Murphy and Eddie Phillips. Burial was in the Deer Lodge cemetery beside her husband.

"Although her senses had begun to fail her in the last few years, Mrs. Kohrs' keen mind and indomitable spirit remained with her to the end of her long and useful life. A philanthropist in her own right, she made possible in 1933 the \$115,000 addition to St. Peter's hospital, known as the Conrad Kohrs memorial.

"Since the death of her pioneer husband in 1920, Mrs. Kohrs had made Helena her home except for occasional trips to New York City and summer months spent on the extensive Kohrs ranch near Deer Lodge.

"Her death brought the end to a life that in later years had been devoted to civic, fraternal and church charities. Although many were little known of except by the receivers, Mrs. Kohrs gave liberally of the fortune she had helped her husband accumulate to innumerable individuals and organizations in Helena and in Montana.

"For many years following the death of her noted husband, Mrs. Kohrs was active in the management of the Conrad Kohrs company, incorporated as a holding company, to administer the vast real estate, livestock, mining claims, bonds, mortgages and stocks owned by the estates for heirs.

"Born Jan. 26, 1849, in Hamburg, Germany, Mrs. Kohrs attended private school and came to the U. S. as a teacher in 1866, settling first in the German community at Davenport, Iowa where Kohrs still operated meat packing houses.

"She was united in marriage with Conrad Kohrs at Davenport Feb. 23, 1868. As a bride of 19, Mrs. Kohrs came up the Missouri river by steamboat from Omaha to Fort Benton in the same year. The trip took 48 days.

"The bridal couple was met at Fort Benton by a Kohrs conveyance which took them to the 30,000-acre home ranch at Deer Lodge, where they lived until coming to Helena in 1899.

"While at Deer Lodge both fortune and adversity met the pioneer couple. A severe winter all but wiped out the vast Kohrs herds but it was not the first time the hardy stockman had tasted ill luck. He stood the loss and came back

to gain the title of 'The Cattle King of Montana.' At one time he purchased 12,000 head of cattle for \$400,000.

"Conrad Kohrs had come to this country from Germany when a boy of 15, went to sea out of New York, rafted and steamboated on the Mississippi, joined the gold rush to California via the Panama isthmus in 1856, farmed, made a fortune in the gold mines of the Fraser river and lost it. He came to Montana, arriving at Deer Lodge in July, 1862: prospected and butchered at Bannock. In 1863, he went to the gold rush at Alder gulch, where he operated a retail meat business until 1865.

"During that time he was associated with the Vigilantes and law and order. At one time he was pursued for six hours by bandits who wished to rob him of \$5,000 in gold he was carrying. In 1866 he purchased the ranch and livestock of John H. Grant near Deer Lodge and it was to that home he brought his bride.

"The Kohrs were pioneers in the introduction of Shorthorn cattle in Montana, bringing a herd from Illinois in 1871. In 1890, the Kohrs brought Herefords to the state. Conrad Kohrs was a member of the Pioneer Cattle company, organized in 1885, which brought herds to the lush Montana ranges south of the Missouri river

"Although not politically minded, Conrad Kohrs served as a member of the fourteenth Montana territorial legislature, as a member of the Montana constitutional convention in 1889 and a commissioner of old Deer Lodge county.

"Even in the days before the turn of the century, the Kohrs were known for their kind-hearted and philanthropic deeds. Many a pioneer was grubstaked by them. Many were given loans when in need of help.

"Mr. and Mrs. Kohrs came to Helena in 1899 when many of the major cattlemen of Montana made their headquarters here.

"Although not a member of many organizations, Mrs. Kohrs home was the scene of hospitable entertainment. Oldtimers recall that President Theodore Roosevelt was an intimate of the Kohrs. At one dinner in his honor, Senator Thomas H. Carter was present. The song 'The Irish and the Dutch, They Don't Amount to Much' was sung for their amusement.

"Mrs. Kohrs was an ardent follower of the opera. She went to New York city for the Metropolitan season each year, not missing until 1943. She was a critic of the leading stars of the day.

"She was a member of the First Presbyterian church and gave liberally to it and aided in the erection of the Helena YMCA.

"In her earlier years she traveled to Germany to visit her old home and had made trips to the West Indies and the Hawaiian islands.

"Although the livestock holdings of the Kohrs estate have been liquidated, the properties are still vast. Among the real estate holdings are the Beveridge, Kohrs, Tracy and Brazier blocks in Helena, the Higgins block in Missoula and the Kohrs (CK) ranch at Deer Lodge, now operated by a grandson, Conrad Warren.

The Kohrs company also holds a sizeable interest in the Northwest Bancorporation, acquired during the time Conrad Kohrs was a director of the Union Bank and Trust company, of which he was once president.

"Preceded in death by her husband and one son, William, Mrs. Kohrs is survived by her daughters, Mrs. Anna Boardman of 702 Madison avenue and Mrs. Katherine Bogart of 712 Monroe avenue; two grandsons, Conrad Warren of Deer Lodge and Lt. Col. Robert Warren of the U. S. army medical corps now in Italy; a granddaughter, Mrs. Anna Bache, with her husband, an army major in Georgia, and four great grandsons and three great granddaughters.

"At the time of her liberal donation which made possible the erection, furnishing and equipping of the Conrad Kohrs Memorial, the Lewis and Clark County Medical association paid partial tribute to the works [o]f the pioneer woman with the words, 'By the application of so large a part of the fortune which she helped her distinguished husband acquire, to such useful purposes as the erection of the Conrad Kohrs Memorial unit ---She is a woman who will be remembered and revered in future years for the many ways in which she has made possible better hospital facilities for the entire state.'"