



finding jobs that were essential to the communities in which he lived — and working as a shoemaker was no different. Making and repairing shoes, whether for work or dress, required skill and a whole array of specific tools. And in the 1870s, before the mass production of footwear, a town's shoemaker could count on a steady stream of customers. And that is what Valentin did.

While Valentin was a shoemaker, Katherina worked taking care of the children. It was a big job, but Katherina loved being closer to the children.



By 1860, the family moved to Shakopee, Minnesota. Within a few years, Katherina Freihaut Reis died on December 10, 1867. She was 64 years old. Katherina (also called Catherine) was buried at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Eagle Creek Township in Shakopee, Minnesota.

Katherina's husband, Valentin Bartholomaeus Reis, died on June 4, 1874. He was buried next to his wife at Calvary Cemetery, up the hill in Eagle Creek Township.



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**Katherina
Freihaut Reis
1802-1867**



Katherina Freihaut was born on December 11, 1802 in Biblis, Kreis Bergstraße, Hessen, Germany. Her parents were Wilhelm Freihaut (1764-1813) and Katherina Reis (1768-1807.)

Katherina married Valentin Bartholomaus Reis on November 25, 1823 in Biblis, Bergstraße, Hesse, Germany. Valentin was born on January 11, 1795 in Biblis, Bergstraße, Hesse, Germany, son of George Bartholomeus Reis (1763-1838) and Anna Maria Freihaut (1771-1834.)

Katherina and Valentin had twelve children, including Bartholomaus, Valentin F., Elizabeth, Johann, Anna Maria, Michael, Elisabeth, Katharina, a stillborn child, Heinrich, Barbara and George Reis.



Katherina Freihaut Reis and her husband, Valentin Bartholomaus Reis, had twelve children. Many of the children lived in Shakopee. One of their children, George Reis, built a hardware store, and later the Opera House which used to be on the north side of First Avenue in Shakopee.



Valentin and Katherina Freihaut Reis and their family headed to America, arriving on July 20, 1846 in New Orleans, Louisiana

The Reis family then moved to St. Louis, Missouri. Valentin Bartholomaus Reis was a shoemaker for several years.

The traditional shoemaker would measure the feet and cut out upper leathers according to the required size. These parts were fitted and stitched together. The sole was next assembled, consisting of a pair of inner soles of soft leather, a pair of outer soles of firmer texture, a pair of welts or bands about one inch broad, of flexible leather, and lifts and top-pieces for the heels. The insole was then attached to a last made of wood, which was used to form the shoe. Some lasts

were straight, while curved lasts came in pairs: one for left shoes, the other for right shoes. The 'lasting' procedure then secured the leather upper to the sole with tacks. The soles were then hammered into shape; the heel lifts were then attached with wooden pegs and the worn out-sole was nailed down to the lifts.

The finishing operation included paring, rasping, scraping, smoothing, blacking, and burnishing the edges of soles and heels, scraping, sand-papering, and burnishing the soles, withdrawing the lasts, and cleaning out any pegs which may have pierced through the inner sole, according to James Paton (1902). "Shoemaking" in **Encyclopædia Britannica**.

Valentin have had a knack for finding