

erich Beinhorn, at one of the meetings of the society, to suggest that as many as were willing to go into a society that would be organized for the purpose of raising money to found a colony some place in the west, should sign an agreement which he had prepared and then plans would be formulated for raising money. To his surprise, every person in the house signed it.

Thus was organized and established The Chicago Land Verein, and Frederick Beinhorn was made its president. Each member paid into it the sum of thirty dollars and with this as a nucleus the society builded a strong organization that grew with amazing rapidity.

During the winter it was learned that certain lands belonging to the Indians were to be disposed of and opened for settlement in the near future. It was decided that a representative should be sent out to investigate and the choice for this important mission fell to William Schmidt.

It was a cold, clear night in February. The streets of Chicago were deserted save by those who had business to attend to or were out for the purpose of fulfilling some engagement. There was no loitering on the street corners or in front of the stores, for the thermometer was doing business down below the zero mark, and it was cold.

The clock in the high city tower had just finished striking the hour of eight, when a young man alighting from the train made his way out of the station into the main part of the city. He had neither money nor baggage and, to all intents and purposes, was