Great Granddad Robert Earl Briggs and his young bride, Elizabeth, migrated from Pittsfield, Michigan to Grand Rapids, Michigan in the year of eighteen hundred and forty nine. They traveled with their two young daughters, Ednie, two years old and my grandmother, Carrie Belle, one, with all of their "earthly goods" in a two wheeled ox cart pulled by a large yoke of oxen.

They bought an eighty acre farm out on the Plainfield Road for the sum of five hundred dollars. Granddad farmed and made some improvements on the place, but located a larger farm with better soil further out on North Coit Road, that he liked better. He told his wife Elizabeth that when the next "Wagoneer" (that's the name they had for pioneer families that came looking for farms to buy) came through, he would invite them to dinner and she should put on the best meal she could with scanty provisions they could afford. It took a few years of waiting but in the year of eighteen fifty three a wagoneer came through stopped and had a good dinner. They liked the Briggs farm and bought it for eighteen hundred dollars making a bit of a profit for the Briggs family.

Not letting the money cool off in his pocket Great Granddad dickered on the price for the other farm of one
hundred and forty acres for the sum of one thousand four hundred dollars and there he and Great Grandmother lived out their lives. Their first set of buildings burned down at different times but were replaced with a better barn and a new brick house which became known as the "White Brick", a landmark for early travelers.