The following story of the exploits of Captain Griggs took place around 1873 and explains how he came by the moniker – ‘Father of Grand Forks’:

Alexander Griggs was participating in a flatboat race on the Red River to Fort Garry. When his crew spotted a keg of beer that had accidentally fallen off another boat, they snagged it and ended up getting so drunk that Griggs had to tie up at the forks to spend the night.

He intended to finish the journey to Winnipeg the next day, but morning brought him a rude surprise. During the night, the temperature had plummeted, and their boat was frozen in place. According to the story, the men had to build a shelter for the winter, and with time on his hands , Griggs surveyed the land and became convinced the site would be ideal for a new town.

Dakota Dateback, October 26, 2003

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