

mine the original plan and proportions of the house on the grandest scale. . . . At the time of the Reformation it was one of the most magnificent and extensive structures, as well as one of the most powerful and wealthy monastic foundations in the kingdom. The church and the domestic offices had been built at an early period when an accession of princely grants and donations had enabled the abbots to gratify their architectural inclinations on the noblest scale, while the solidity of the Anglo-Norman mode of construction had secured both against hasty reform or dangerous decay. The space that remained covered by them when their utility was at an end, is said to have been about twelve acres."

On the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII, their lands reverted to the king by whom they were distributed to the principal nobility and courtiers. It must have been at this period that the Yorke family became possessed of "Gowthwaite," where not long after, in the time of Elizabeth (1558-1603) they erected the manor-house now standing. In 1546 John Yorke, Esq., of London (son of the first Yorke "of Gowthwaite," and knighted two years later) with Anne, his wife, bought in addition an ancient and extensive manor in that region, in Domesday called Higrefelt (Hyrefield or Highfield), and described as a mile long by a mile broad, of which Heathfield, a hamlet next below Gowthwaite, was once the center. The same family in 1674 acquired the large manor of Bewerley, still lower on the Nidd, so that the whole road, about three miles, from Pateley Bridge to Gowthwaite, is now bordered by their estates. The Goldthwaites, however, so far as we now have evidence, seem before the Dissolution to have left that particular part of Nidderdale, some for other parts of Yorkshire, while those remaining in the vicinity were living still lower on the Nidd where we find some generations of them at Hayshaw Grange, as has been already mentioned. In this region as show by their wills, they became after the dissolution tenants of the Ingilbys of Ripley Castle on the Nidd, who two or three centuries after the Conquest had become some of the most wealthy and powerful chiefs in the Wapentake of Claro and have had from that day to the present their seat at Ripley.