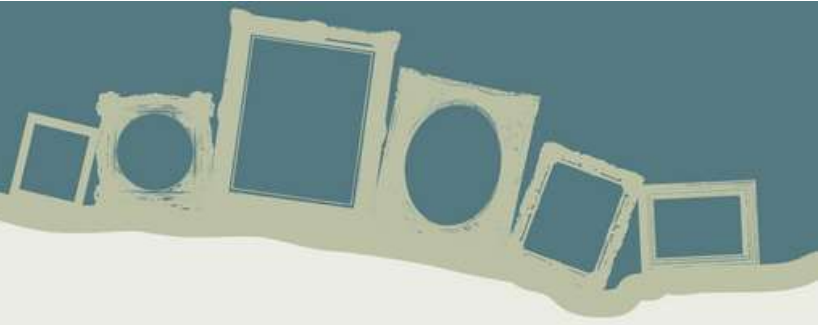


# Wall Face



## Antiquarian Image Card #9: John Hodgson by Edward Scriven

Stipple and Line Engraving, published February 1832, NPG D43001

Linked to Segedunum Museum (Newcastle)

### John Hodgson (1779 - 1845)

Clergyman and antiquary who wrote the first edition of the County History of Northumberland, and was one of the first to identify Hadrian as the builder of the Wall.

### Key achievements

- Worked with Sir Humphrey Davy to develop the miners safety lamp following the major explosion at Felling Colliery in 1812. The colliery was within his parish and 92 men and boys died. He published an account of the disaster with his funeral sermon.
- He was a founder member of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle in 1813, the oldest Antiquarian Society in England outside London and still going strong today.

### Links to Hadrian's Wall

- Wrote *The History of Northumberland* which included a section on the Roman Wall presented in the form of a 173 page long footnote, commonly regarded as the 'longest footnote in literature'.
- It also contains Hodgson's assertion that the wall was built by the Emperor Hadrian, not Severus, contrary to the prevailing view at the time, based on careful study of inscriptions emerging from excavations.
- The footnote includes a section on each of the forts of the wall from East to West, starting with Wallsend (Segedunum), and including excavation notes on what could be a Roman Bath-house at Fawdon. 2014 excavations found remains typical of a Roman Bath-house, which indicate that Hodgson's observations may be correct.

### Character insights

- He turned down a well paid job as Director of Lemmington Ironworks in order to 'pursue a literary rather than a mercantile life'
- He was a teacher in Lanchester, and also the curate for two hamlets in the parish.



John Hodgson by Edward Scriver © National Portrait Gallery, London