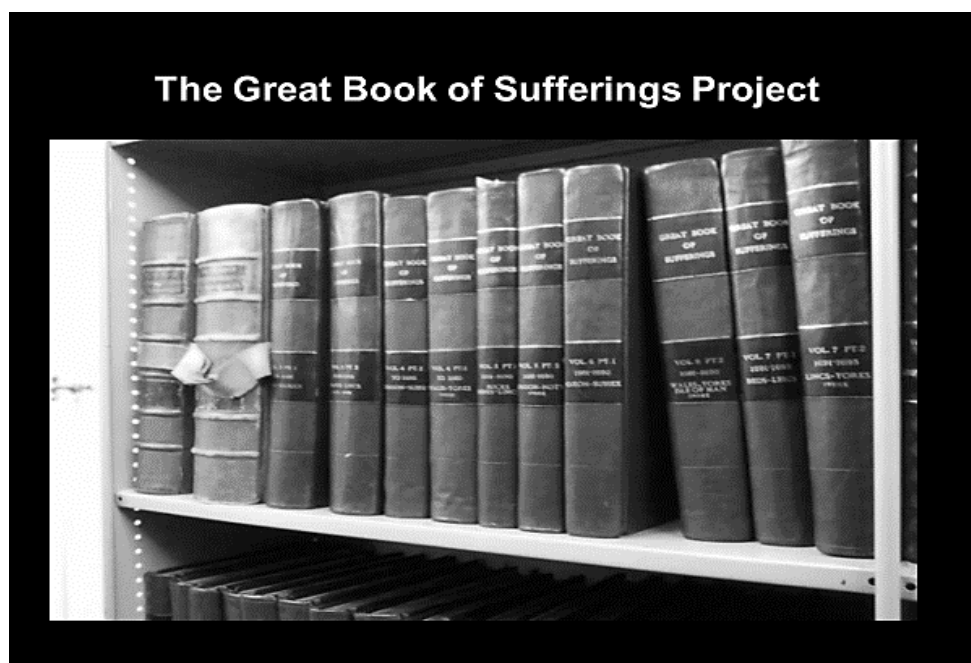


FHS Great Book of Sufferings: Case Study Workshop, Gosforth Meeting House, Newcastle Upon Tyne 2025.

Update report, 2025



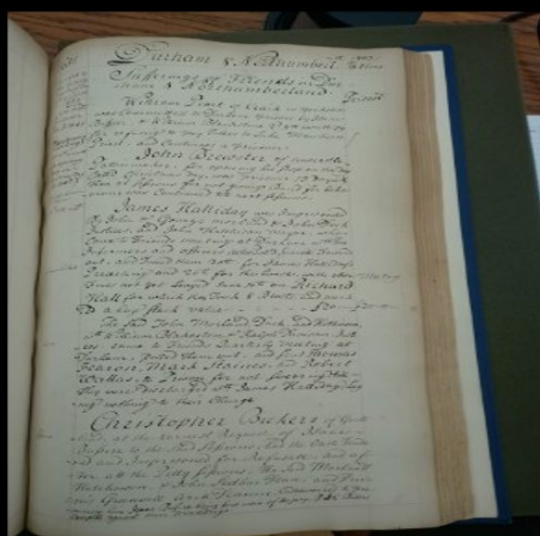
On Saturday, 22 November 2025, Erin Bell and Richard Allen, with the assistance of Northumbria Friends, held a well attended Friends Historical Society workshop at the Gosforth Meeting House, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

FHS Great Book of Sufferings project, c.2025-? Case Study: Quakerism in the North East of England

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Erin Bell.
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This workshop centred on a FHS funded initiative to explore the significance of the Great Book of Sufferings. As an initial case study for the project, Bell and Allen (the project directors) provided an illustrated history of early Quakerism and persecution in County Durham and Northumberland before turning attention to the Great Book of Sufferings project itself: its aims, broader remit, and the potential for wider public participation in the transcribing and interpreting of the historical evidence. The workshop demonstrated the lasting significance of Quakerism in the North East of England, the difficulties faced by early Quakers, especially focusing on the continued persecution they faced from the State and Ecclesiastical authorities. In the Workshop, Allen and Bell were able to show examples of maltreatment and how the Friends responded to such cruelty. Throughout the workshop the audience asked probing questions and there were some very interesting observations made from the knowledgeable and attentive gathering. The project directors are extremely grateful to those who are willing to help out in this work and we look forward to working with you in the future. Bell and Allen are similarly grateful to Gosforth Meeting House Friends for providing a warm welcome on a winter's afternoon, refreshing hot drinks for all and for their kindness in helping to arrange the room for the workshop. Finally, the project directors wish to thank the FHS and the Library of the Society of Friends, London, especially Libby Adams, for their financial and material support. As this is the beginning of the project, the project directors can be contacted at:

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Erin and Richard still welcome volunteers to assist us and further details of the GBS project will be provided upon contact

Erin Bell and Richard Allen, December 2025.