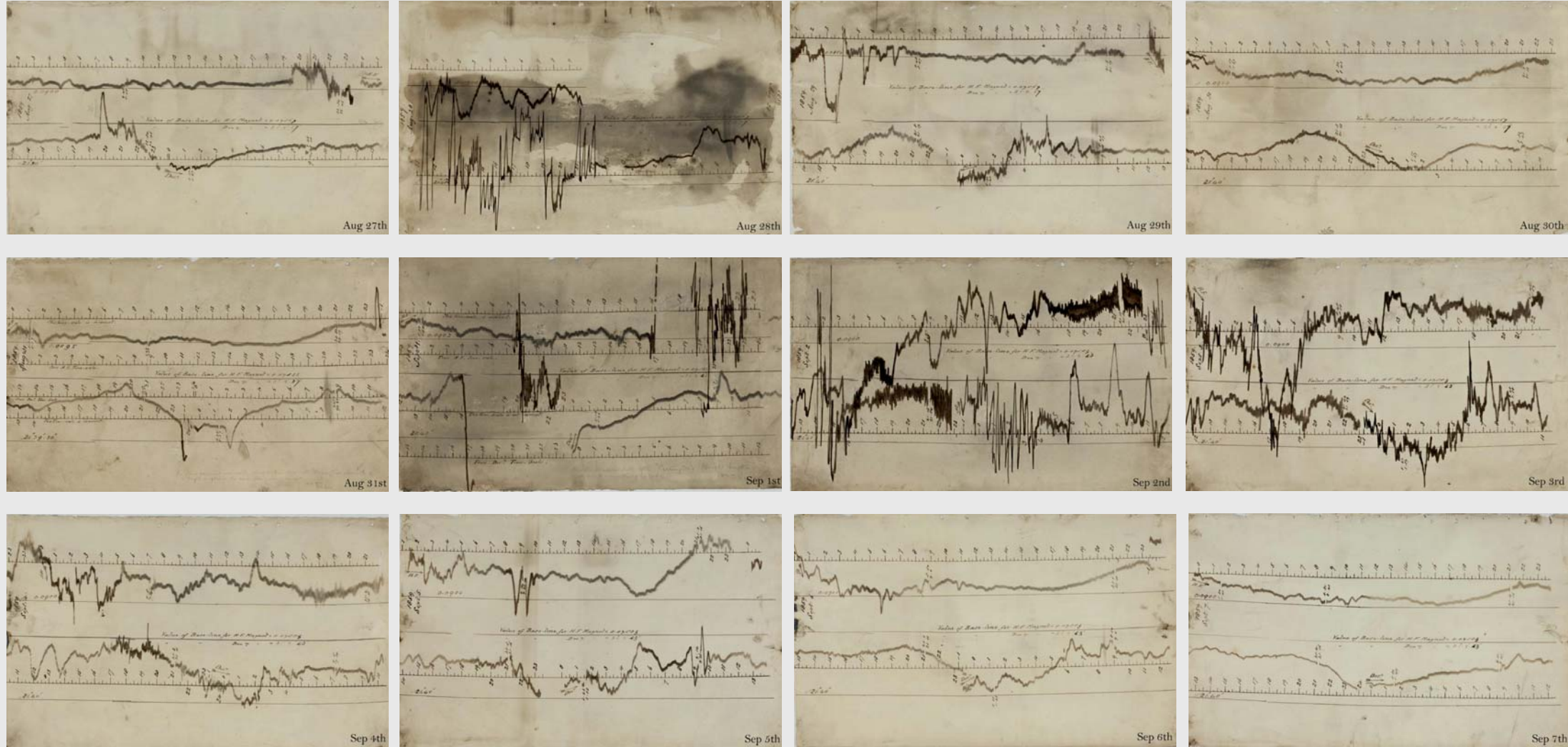


# The Largest Magnetic Storm on Record

The 'Carrington Event' of August 28th to September 8th, 1859  
Recorded at Greenwich Observatory, London



## The magnetograms

Declination, or compass direction, ( $D$ ) is the lower line on each image. The horizontal magnetic force ( $H$ ) is the upper trace. Measured  $D$  precedes  $H$  by approximately 12 hours (local time is the time recorded here less 12 hours).

## The "Carrington" flare

The 'solar flare effect' beginning around 11:18 local time (23:18 recorded time) on Thursday September 1st, 1859 has been measured as 110 nT in  $H$  and 0.283 degrees in  $D$ . The largest magnetic storm on record began 17 hours 40 minutes later.

Some data have been lost, either due to ink and paper degradation, or because the variations were so large they were off-scale.