

Japanese  
performers in  
19<sup>th</sup> century  
Norfolk

Pernille Rudlin



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# Questions

Why did they leave Japan?

Why did some settle in Britain?

What happened to the descendants?

What was the cultural legacy?



# Why leave Japan?

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# Edo street performers

## Acrobatics 軽業 Karuwaza



1800s scroll at Metropolitan Museum of Art





## Tannaker's Japanese?



Why did some settle in  
Britain?



## JAPANESE

First Visit to this Town.

**TOMMY THE WOLF**

**LITTLE ALL RIGHT,**

**A Lady Rope & V**

**Walker**

**TUB BAL**

THIS (SAY)  
WEDNESDAY  
EVERY EVENING

**FRESH**  
NEW  
NEW A  
Change of Prog

**EXTRA GIFTS** of Cabinets,  
Glove Boxes, Tables, 2  
Papier-Machie Dolls, Fans,  
Umbrellas, Ivories, Musical  
Instruments, Mechanical Spi-  
ders, Magnetic Fishes, Bam-  
boo Cups, China Ware, Fish-  
ing Rods, Silk Balls, and 100  
other Novelties, all the handi-  
craft of Japanese workmen.

Prices, 3s., 2s., 1s., and  
6d. Children half-price to  
3s., 2s., and 1s. seats.  
Doors open at 7.15, to  
commence at Eight.  
Tickets may be had of  
Messrs. Howlett and Son,  
Music Sellers.



Remember! Every Person receives a Gift  
Japanese Curiosity.

NEXT WEEK is positively the LAST

... SATURDAY,  
EVERY EVENING at EIGHT

**FRESH NOVELTIES**  
NEW TRICKS!  
NEW ACTS!  
CHANGE of PROGRAMME



**EXTRA GIFTS** of Cabinets,  
Glove Boxes, Tables, Trays,  
Papier-Machie Dolls, Fans,  
Umbrellas, Ivories, Musical  
Instruments, Mechanical Spi-  
ders, Magnetic Fishes, Bam-  
boo Cups, China Ware, Fish-  
ing Rods, Silk Balls, and 100  
other Novelties, all the handi-  
craft of Japanese workmen.

Prices, 3s., 2s., 1s., and  
Children half-price to 3s.  
and 1s. seats. Doors  
at 7.15, to commence  
Eight. Tickets may be  
at Messrs. Howlett and  
Music Sellers.

## JAPANESE!!



**NEW VICTORIA HALL,  
NORWICH.**

*Monday, 5th of May, and  
following Nights.*

**Tannaker's Troupe of Real  
JAPANESE.**

FIRST VISIT TO THIS CITY.

**TOMMY THE WOLF,  
LITTLE ALL RIGHT,  
A LADY ROPE AND WIRE  
WALKER,  
TUB BALANCER, SCREEN  
AND DOOR SPINNER,  
And 101 other New Feats.**

Day Performance at Three  
o'clock on Wednesday and  
Saturday Afternoons. Even-  
ings commencing at Eight p.m.

3s., 2s., 1s., and 6d.

ALLS AND CIRCULARS.

Tannaker's troupes in Norwich

1873-1878

## THE TROUPE

Acts and Tricks Next Week.

PERFORMANCES ON WEDNESDAY AND  
SATURDAY AT THREE.



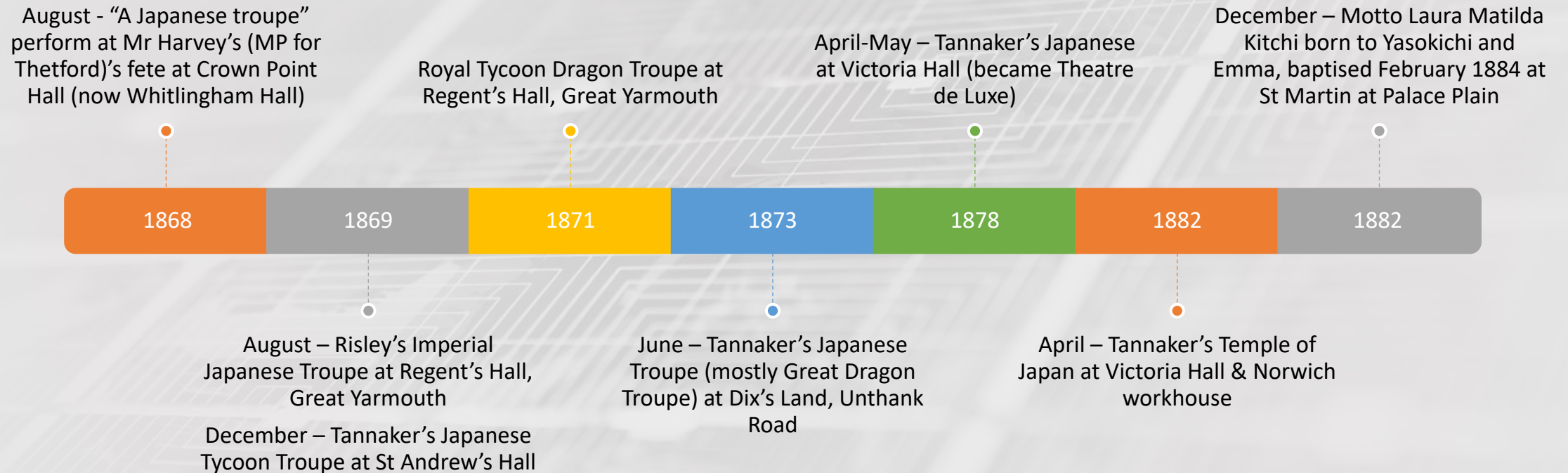
**TUESDAY EVENING**  
MAY 13TH, under the  
Patronage and Presence of  
the Right Worshipful the  
MAYOR (SIR SAMUEL  
BIGNOLD, KNIGHT) and  
the SHERIFF of NORWICH  
(DR. BATEMAN).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14TH,  
the COMMANDING and  
OTHER OFFICERS of H.M.  
51st REGIMENT.

THURSDAY, MAY 15TH  
COLONEL CUSTANCE and  
OFFICERS of the WEST



# The Japanese troupes in Norfolk 1868-1882

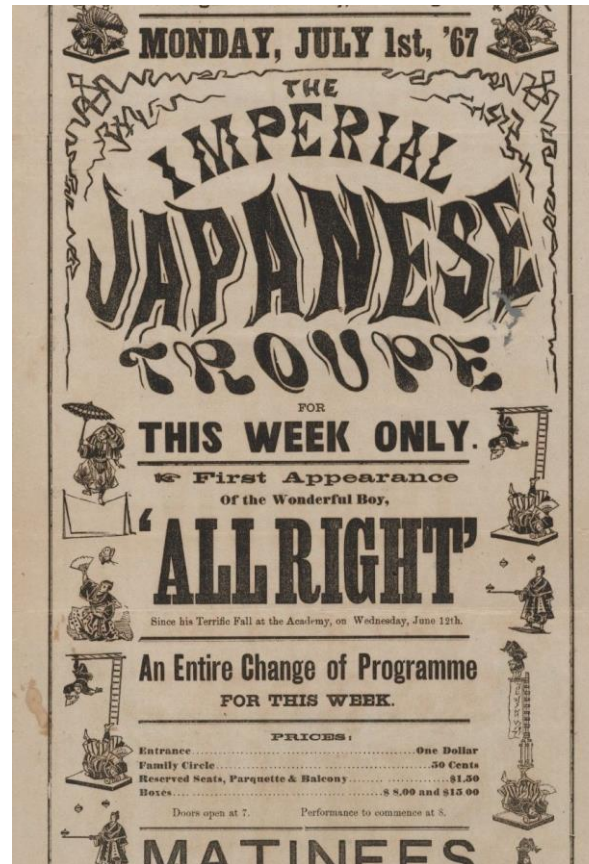






Matsui Gensui





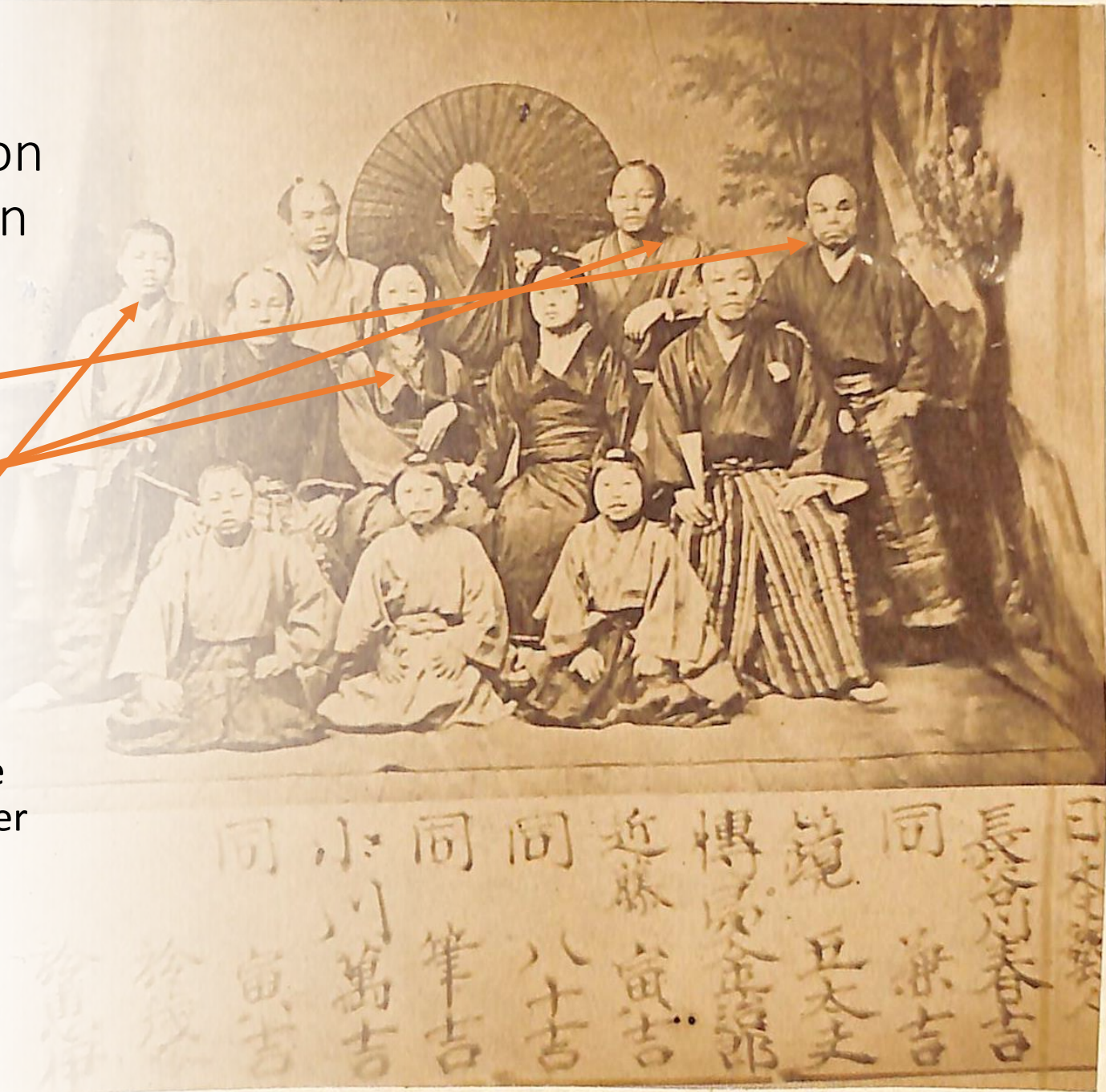
Professor Risley's Imperial Japanese Troupe



What happened to the  
descendants?

# Great Dragon Troupe/Tannaker/Tycoon members who settled in Britain 1869

- Kondo Fudekichi (b 1828,  
married Julia Knight in 1873,  
settled in Brighton)
- Kagami Omoto (b 1843) &  
Godayuu (b 1844) (settled in  
Australia after being based in  
Britain in 1870s)
- Ogawa Torakichi (b 1853, wire  
walker, married Isabella Hunter  
in 1872, moved to Germany  
1885)





# Ogawa Torakichi





# Great Dragon Troupe/Tannaker/Tycoon members who settled in Britain (1870)

- Kondo Yasokichi b 1853-55, juggler, block manipulator, married Emma Corbett 1876, d 1920)
- Kondo Torakichi b 1855-1858 married Alice Daniels in 1873. Condo and Son/Condos and little Miss Una. Connected to Ando troupe. Died 1925)





1873?



G. FICK PHOTO



# Great Dragon Troupe/Tannaker/Tycoon members who settled in Britain – 1878-1882

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- Sekine Sho b 1832, wire walker, married Harriet Beddowes 1879 d 1911
- Sekine Ichitaro b 1857-60, balancing and block, married Nagahama Sua 1886, d 1899
- Sekine Kintaro b 1864-6, wire walker, married Lily Fitzgerald 1888, d 1901





Japanese troupes  
in Norfolk 1890-  
1903

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Japanese scientific wrestling, now being taught by a Japanese professor, Professor Uyenishi, of Seil Staff, formed, perhaps, the greatest attraction at the annual gathering of the public schools at Aldershot, given after the boxing championships at the Gymnasium, Queen's Avenue. One of the professors triumphantly felled her male opponent. Those who witnessed the exhibition came away with the feeling that the Japanese will long hold the field against all comers. Our photograph is by Charles Knight, Aldershot. EXHIBITION OF JU-JITSU AT ALDERSHOT: A LADY THROWS



**Yamamoto et Mlle Koyoshi**  
Célèbres Equilibristes Japonais.

*With best wishes  
from  
Yamamoto and  
Koyoshi*

Japanese performers in Norfolk 1900s-1910s





Japanese performers in  
Norfolk 1920s to post  
war

What was the cultural  
legacy?





The Mikado and all that

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Rope or  
wire  
walking







Tub and ladder  
balancing



# Butterfly fanning



THE BUTTERFLY TRICK.

THE JAPANESE JUGGLERS



# Top spinning 曲独楽 Kyokugoma







Kakubeejishi 角兵衛獅子





Daikagura

太神楽  
Holy dancing







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Thank you to the family! To Dr Robert H. Sayers, for generously sharing his photograph collection and his insights – and also all the other researchers and the relatives for their tips and encouragement