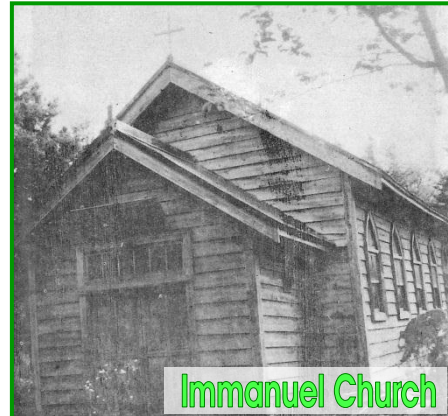


Town History

From Mining to Farming

Before the Imakane area became known as an agricultural center, the area was known for its mining and drew many people from the main island of Honshu. Proof of this can be seen in the upstream region of the Toshibetsu River, where evidence of mining/panning for Alluvial Gold (gold dust/flakes) can be found.



Immanuel Church

There is also evidence at Kanikan Peak where the mining of Gold Ore took place. The aforementioned mining and large influx of people are believed to have started at the beginning of the Edo Period (17th century) and continued on afterwards. Near the beginning of the Meiji Era (mid 19th century), Manganese was discovered as well, and the mining of it continued from the end of the Meiji Era until approximately 1945.



Toshibetsu Village Hall

Settling in the Imakane area for the purpose of farming and agriculture began in the 24th year of the Meiji Era (1891) with the arrival of Yuki Yoshi Shikata and a group of Christian settlers in the Immanuel (currently known as Kamioka) area. In the 26th year of the Meiji Era (1893), Toujirou Imamura and Ishirou Kanamori settled in the area where Imakane is currently located.

In the 30th year of the Meiji Era, separation from the village of Setana occurred and the village of Toshibetsu was created. It was then in the 22nd year of the Showa Era (1947) on the 50th Anniversary of becoming a separate village that the area was renamed to Imakane, in honor of the settlers Mr. Imamura and Mr. Kanamori.