

HISTORY AND NATURAL FEATURES

**How far back are there records or tales of historical events?
How widely known are these stories?**

Lael's documented history goes back 4,000 years. Most of the history is well-known, but in a rather vague way.

Do average people believe old tales, or do they dismiss some that have a basis in fact?

History outside of Lael is little known—or cared about by the hoi polloi. Lael isn't as concerned about their past as they are their present (especially in these tempestuous times).

How similar are Lael's and Earth's histories and cultures?

Although Lael and Earth have followed a parallel timeline, Lael is technologically behind Earth in most ways. They have a certain primitive technology (or rather they have a few sophisticated technologies), but for the most part they live old-fashioned lives. They are a curious and inventive people, but not necessarily ambitious. They are not a country of dreamers.

Who are the heroes and villains of their history?

Lael's history is spotted with the Gifted and the Searchers and their adventures together. Some are legend; some are fact; all are canonized. Particular Gifted who stand out in the public mind are Harrison Garnett (though for the wrong reasons), Benjamin Webb (who crossed over into a faraway jungle land 100 years ago and was brought forth by his devoted Searcher Rialla Nialle; their story is

one of the more romantic ones, since they ended up marrying), and Werner Ludlum (who fought in the Garowai War 300 years ago, when some nasty person captured the Garowai).

What natural features mark the borders? Who are the neighboring countries/peoples and what are they like?

Lael is bordered by the mountains to the east, rough hill country on the north and south, and the Isseni Sea the west. The huge, barren country of Rothin, to the north, has a long history of passive hostility against Lael. Mainas to the east is far beyond the mountains and has little to no contact with Lael. Seradrad to the south is a totalitarian dictatorship run by King Olag; they are on more or less cordial terms with Lael.

What are the primary crops? Are any grown mainly for export?

Loamwheat and other common vegetables. Fish, mountain sheep, and shag cattle. Dassberries and dassberry byproducts. All are exported to some extent, although it isn't a major industry.

What wild animals live in this area?

High country: Lots of waterfowl and fish. Zajele (a gazelle-like creature) are plentiful. Jiswars.

Low country: Hawks, deer, badgers, shrews, grouse.

Mountains: Koraudion lions, bighorn sheep, condors.