



Aunt Rachel (Cantin) Drolet with her 4 children :  
Row 1 - Marc Drolet, Aunt Rachel and Conrad Drolet  
Row 2 - Jeanne Drolet, Suzanne Simard, Laurence Tremblay and Jocelyne Drolet

# I found my origins

Text by Suzanne Simard Racette, wife of André P. Racette, of Gatineau

I was born at the crèche de la Miséricorde, in Quebec, on February 1, 1942. On April 19, a Simard family from Taschereau, in Abitibi came to pick me up for adoption.

My adoptive parents traveled by train from Amos in Abitibi to Quebec ... and the next day, they took me to their part of the country.

I grew up in Taschereau and studied there until the 10th grade. Then I went to the Senneterre Normal School where I did my 11th grade and after two years I obtained a B certificate to teach in primary and secondary school.

At 18, I taught at Taschereau to 5th grade students. Also, I was a parish organist for the summer vacation when the nuns returned to their mother house.

In 1961, at 19 years old, I married André P. Racette and we moved to La Sarre where he worked for the social welfare of Quebec. We had two boys there: Jean and Christian. In 1967, we moved to Val-d'Or because André was transferred there for his work. That year, I gave birth to our daughter, Nathalie.

In 1977 after the death of my adoptive parents, I started talking about doing research to find my biological mother ... But at that time, the law did not allow social service workers to give any information.

When my husband was going to Quebec for his work, he took the opportunity to meet the social worker who was responsible for my file at the CSS, but she could not reveal anything to him.

In 1986, I wrote to Mrs. Lise-Marie Lavoie, Social Worker, to find out if my mother was still alive. She called me back and told me that she had traced my biological mother ... She told me that she was 68 years old and was in good health. Widowed for several years, she had worked to raise her son alone who was now almost 30 years old...

My mother replied to the social worker that what blocked her from meeting me was the fact that she had signed a promise to a priest never to seek news of her daughter to atone for her sin.

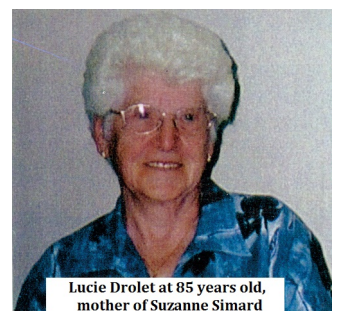
In 1993, the Association of Rasset Family was preparing to hold a large gathering in St-Augustin-de-Desmaures. My husband, who was one of the founding members, was mandated to find a place to make this meeting in August 1994 ... He made several visits to this village ... so much so, that a garage owner asked him if he had now moved to their parish . He went to François Racette's house to make him aware of this idea of a gathering together of a lot of members of the Association. François didn't think we could meet so many people ... For the first gathering of the Racette Family, we welcomed nearly 300 people for supper and for the vigil. It was a success. We even had a Racette choir for singing during the special mass ... There were probably Drolets in the audience ... but we could not make the link since I did not know my mother's name.



1st meeting between Suzanne and her sister Laurence Drolet Tremblay



Suzanne Simard, 75 years old, daughter of Lucie Drolet



Lucie Drolet at 85 years old, mother of Suzanne Simard



In July 2018 when the Quebec government announced that a new law had just been signed allowing adopted children to be able to trace their biological mother, I quickly printed the forms published on the internet and I entered all the information requested and I sent this to the Quebec CISS.

In September 2018, I received a call from Ms. Isabelle Paré, T.S. of CISS, to whom my file was entrusted. She revealed the name of my biological mother to me: LUCIE DROLET and she added that my mother had died at the age of 98 ... so in 2016. When I saw her photo, I had no more possible doubt: this woman was my mother. When I read the death certificate, I learned that she had a sister-in-law who lived in St-Augustin-de-Desmaures.

As we have Racette relatives who live in St-Augustin, I called Gisèle, François Racette's wife. When I explained to her why I called her, she asked her husband if he had known a Lucie Drolet ...

He replied: yes, she was one of the most beautiful girls in St-Augustin...

Gisèle had known for a long time that I was looking for my biological mother.

She told me that she knew my mother's sister-in-law: Rachel Cantin, widow of Fernand Drolet... She adds that she is going to see her this evening since François Racette is going to animate bingo at the residence where she lives... She will ask him if she is aware that Lucie had had a child before marriage. Rachel admitted that she knew, but that no one else in the family was aware of it. It was her husband who told her this...

To make a long story short, Gisèle called me back and said: "Come and take a trip to St-Augustin this weekend, I will be able to make you meet her.

What we did on October 5.

She introduced us to her friend, Rachel, who learned that I was her niece. She received us with open arms and introduced us to her four children who were all happy to learn that they had a new cousin... Aunt Rachel kept saying: we should have known you sooner.

The following week, Ms. Paré, the T.S. of the CISS de Québec calls me back to ask me if I would agree to meet members of my siblings if the question arose ...

Certainly, I answered him.

In early December, she called me back to tell me that I have a sister born in 1949 who would love to meet me ... I told her to give her my phone number.

The next day, Laurence (Drolet) Tremblay calls me. We meet after Christmas. She's coming to meet me here... after New Years because she's spending Christmas with her two brothers who live in Fermont.

Jocelyne, one of Rachel's daughters, decides to celebrate her mother's 90th birthday in advance and she organizes a meeting with family members and Rachel's friends, including François and Gisèle Racette for the month of May with Laurence and me. So on May 12, 2019, around forty people were waiting for us. We spent a very pleasant and enriching afternoon with all these beautiful people. What emotion! Several had taken the trouble to bring old photos... and written documents so that we could see the Drolet family tree. It all ended with sharing a lunch that we all had together. Jocelyne took several photos which she shared with us.

I owe a lot to my husband who has searched so much with me for 40 years ... and many thanks to François and Gisèle that made things easier for me ...

Finally, thank you to the association of Rasset Families who allowed us to know St-Augustin-de-Desmaures where the first Racette settled on Canadian soil and allowed us to know several descendants of Jean Rasset.

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