

**STRONG FAMILY TIES BROUGHT CAMPANYS TO THE
ADIRONDACKS
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We all hear a great deal today about the deterioration of the traditional family as we once knew it here in America.

It has even become a political issue between the two major parties. Being a firm believer in the old adage: "You should never argue religion or politics." I will refrain from giving an opinion on the subject.

I do think that the majority of people recognize that it is perhaps the cause of many of the major problems facing this nation today. I would like to cite an example of the benefits and importance of family relationships as they were once generally accepted.

The year is 1930 and the economy is at an all-time low. There are few government crutches at this time, at least on the national level, and when you were in trouble there were few places to turn.

Erwin or "Dick" Company, as he was known, was out of work with a wife and new-born son to support. His wife Arlene's maiden name was Strife. She was the sister of C.J. Strife, a successful and enterprising logging contractor. At the time, C.J. was managing an extensive lumbering operation at Brandreth Station.

Dick Company called his brother-in-law, told him of his plight and wondered if he could give him a job. C.J.'s answer was immediate and positive.

"Come on up, you can live with us until we find a place of your own." Thus began a friendship that lasted until C.J.'s death in 1953.

The Company's moved to Brandreth, which was the first real home for Ed Company, their infant son. Dick worked on many different jobs for Strife from mechanic to Lynn tractor driver.

When the operation at Brandreth closed down, the family followed C.J.'s operation to Carter Station where they lived over the railroad station. Dick worked out of the office and ran the mail boat across Rondaxe Lake to C.J.'s logging camp on Darts Lake.

Big Moose Station was the next stop and Ed recalled his father taking him into the Deerhead Hotel. The hotel was a favorite watering hole for the lumberjacks. They

would make up to young Ed, stuffing dollar bills in his pockets. A big fight erupted on one occasion and Dick hustled Ed out and home, where he called the authorities.

Old Forge was the last stop for the Campanys and Ed started school. A short time later, Dick Company landed a job with Syracuse Engineering, where he worked for the next 37 years.

The brothers-in-law enjoyed a fulfilling working relationship while it lasted, as well as a mutual love of hunting, fishing and the outdoors until the end.

To make a long story short, none of this would have been likely without strong family ties.