Abstract: The paper deals with the question when, how and why villages or hamlets were created in southern Uppland in Sweden. The first permanent settlements in the area established after 0 B.C. During the Iron Age the buildings were moved a number of times depending on among other things development in farming technics. Almost every place was a single farm location. In the beginning of Medieval Age the settlement became stable. The main reasons for this seems to be connected to influences from the state administration or to the church and monastaries. This stability lasted for centuries. Some villages emerge in the area but they contained normally not more than three farms. It is proposed that different forms of cooperation between farms should be studied instead of a strict geographical treatment.

Key-words: hamlet formation, Spånga parish Uppland Sweden.