THE SAVAGE GRANT

By James Leach

Based on True Events

Genre: Historical Drama / Frontier Adventure

Logline: In the turbulent years of the American Revolution, a Pennsylvania settler moves his family to inherited frontier land in search of freedom and peace, only to face devastating violence that forces him to choose between vengeance and ending the cycle of hatred.

Synopsis

In 1775, **Jonathon Buffington** inherits frontier land along Virginia's Kanawha River through the historic *Savage Grant*, originally awarded to Captain John Savage and his soldiers following the French and Indian War. Tired of conflict and unrest in Pennsylvania, Jonathon travels west to claim the property and build a new life for his family.

Near Leading Creek, Jonathon meets hardened frontiersman **Jesse Hughes**, whose father was killed by Native warriors, and the Westfall family, settlers struggling to survive in an increasingly dangerous wilderness. Despite warnings of raids and territorial disputes, Jonathon builds a cabin and returns to Pennsylvania for his wife Ann and their children.

Jonathon believes the frontier can offer the freedom he seeks, but violence continues to follow him. His hostility toward British authority erupts in a deadly confrontation with Redcoat tax collectors, while tensions between settlers and the Native population intensify over expanding settlements, hunting grounds, and sacred land.

Jonathon moves his family to Leading Creek and begins establishing their farm. After witnessing an attack at Westfall's Fort, Ann insists on learning to shoot so she can defend herself and the children. Their new life begins to take shape, but the threat surrounding them never disappears.

While Jonathon is away in Staunton disputing new property taxes, a Mingo war party attacks his homestead. He returns to find the cabin burned and **Ann** and his sons, **William** and **Jeremiah**, murdered.

His young daughter **Wendy** has been taken captive.

Consumed by grief and memories of earlier family members lost to frontier violence, Jonathon ignores warnings to wait for help and sets out to recover her. He and George Westfall locate the Mingo camp but are captured.

George is killed, while Jonathon discovers Wendy is alive and being cared for by a woman who herself had once been taken into the tribe.

Jonathon challenges the Mingo chief to a brutal gauntlet in exchange for freedom, buying time until Jesse and a frontier raiding party attack the camp. Amid the battle, Jonathon finds Wendy and rescues her.

But faced with an opportunity to kill the Mingo chief, Jonathon makes an unexpected choice.

He cuts him free.

Having lost nearly everyone he loves, Jonathon finally recognizes that vengeance will only continue the bloodshed consuming both peoples. He returns home with Wendy and begins rebuilding their shattered life.

Nine months later, the woman who protected Wendy leaves the Mingo and arrives at Jonathon's farm. Grieving losses of her own, she is welcomed by Jonathon and reunited with Wendy.

Two families destroyed by violence begin something neither side believed possible—a new life built not on revenge, but on the possibility of peace