

## SOULDERS DESTROYS AMERICAN FLAG

Source: Crawfordsville Review, April 10, 1917 p 1 Linden, April 9 - After twice pulling the Stars & Stripes from the telephone post in front of his house, and the last time tearing the flag to bits, Andrew Souder, of this place (Liden) was placed under arrest at 5:30 this evening, and taken to the local jail, to await the arrival of federal authorities tomorrow. Soulders, who is a man of about 55, had nothing to say when he was arrested, except that he was a Socialist, and did not believe in war. Sunday afternoon while Mr. and Mrs. Sauders (sic) were visiting their daughter, Mrs. Jeff King of near here, 40 or 50 boys went to the Sauder home, hearing that he was antagonistic regarding the showing of flags, and tacked several American flags to the telephone post in front of his house.

When Souders came home, he tore all of them down. This aroused the people of the neighborhood, but they said nothing. This afternoon a teacher with one of the classes in school here went to the Souder home, and placed another American flag in front of the house. Souders came out swearing and tore the flag into pieces. This around the pupils, as well as the men of the town, and Marshall Charles Parnell was sent after the man, with an affidavit for his arrest, signed by merchants and school boys. The arrest was made about 5:30 Monday evening, and Souders will be taken to Lafayette Tuesday morning by federal authorities, who have been communicated with.

When asked why he tore down the flag, Souders said, "I am a Socialist, and have been against war. I do not believe that I am bound to support that flag or any other flag unless I want to, and it is my privilege to tear up an American flag, or a German flag if I want to do it." Soulders is married and lives with his wife in the south part of town. Their only child is a married daughter. The man was a shoemaker here for some time, but for the past two years has been dealing in coal. The Souders moved to Linden from Crawfordsville several years ago, where he followed the shoemakers business.