

Friends of Midland
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February 14, 2019

VFW Department of PA State HQ
4002 Fenton Ave.
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943
Attn: State Adjutant & Quartermaster John B. Getz, Jr

Dear State Adjutant & Quartermaster John B. Getz, Jr;

On Saturday **May 25, 2019** the Friends of Midland will be honoring the veterans at our annual memorial service. Some of the veterans interred at Midland are the United States Colored Troops, the Buffalo Soldiers, Tuskegee Airmen, WWI, II and Korean War. Restoration of this historic cemetery has allowed us to pay respect to those who lie in these hallowed grounds and should be honored for their contributions to our freedom.

This year we will be honoring Andrew Askin who died a hundred years ago. We will have an unveiling of a memorial stone that we are placing in his honor. Andrew and the crew of the Cyclops all perished on March 4, 1918. If they had survived many of them could have become a member of their local VFW.

We are inviting any and all members of the local VFW's to stand along with other VFW's to pay tribute to Andrew Askin. Our keynote speaker will be the retired Brigadier General George Schwartz. The State Representative Patty Kim and State Senator Folmer, who are scheduled to attend and will give a proclamation.

The program **time is 1pm on Saturday May 25, 2019** at the Midland Cemetery located at 206 Kelker Street and Cole Alley in Swatara Township. The cemetery is directly behind the Steelton Highspire High School.

Please share with all Pennsylvania VFW's. If you need additional information, feel free to contact me at the above header information.

With regards,

Barbara B. Barksdale
President

See attachment of Andrew Askin obit
CC: file

Andrew Askin Obituary

February 6, 1896 – June 14, 1918
Written by Barbara Barksdale

Andrew Theodore Askin, 22 years of age, born in Baltimore Maryland, the son of William and Annie Askin, died on the ship known as the US collier Cyclops which was lost at sea on March 4, 1918. Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt declared Cyclops to be officially lost, and all hands declared legally deceased as of June 14, 1918. Andrew was survived by his mother Mrs. Annie Bailor, siblings Gussie, Sedonia, Alberta, Walter, Ethel, Dallett, Lucia and Ada. He resided with his mother for a while at 151 Main Street in Steelton Pa. He enlisted in Atlantic City New Jersey with the Navy. His listed assignment on the ship was a Mess Attendant 3rd Class, giving him the opportunity to visit several countries.

He was remembered by the veterans of the Civil War, Spanish American War and World War I when they organized the segregated Andrew Askin American Legion Post 479 in Steelton, Pa. He will be remembered in history and in prayers. His remains along with the crew of 306 and ship were never found to date almost one hundred years ago. Thank you all for your service.



*Steelton Man Who Was
on Board the Cyclops*



ANDREW ASKIN
Andrew Askin, colored, of Steelton, a son of Mrs. Annie Bailor, and believed to have been lost because of the failure of the U. S. collier Cyclops to appear in port, had a narrow escape from death, several months ago, his mother said today. In the last letter she received from him in February he told that the ship had nearly been blown up by one of its own mines while in South American waters.
Another man believed to have been on the ship was Dr. Ross J. Agger, 24 years old, an assistant surgeon in the Navy and a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Agger of Chambersburg. He is a graduate of the Medical College of the University of Maryland in the class of 1914. He was married.
The report that Askin was probably lost was received by Mrs. Bailor last night in a telegram from the Navy Department. He enlisted a year ago at Atlantic City and was an assistant cook on the collier. Askin was 22 years old.

WAR SERVICE CREDITED TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY Claim # 327935

Name: ASKIN, Andrew Theodore Service Number: 155-06-56
 (Child of ~~XXXXX~~)¹ Recruiting Station, Philadelphia, Penna. Date: 6-20-1917
 Rate: Mess Attendant 3rd class Branch of service: U. S. N.
 Born at: Baltimore, Maryland Date: 2-6-1896 Color: negro
 Home address: 1228 Arctic Ave., Atlantic City, N.J.

From	To	Station as	From	To
Receiving Ship, Norfolk, Va.	6-20-17	6-3-17	Mess Attendant 3rd.	6-20-17
U.S.S. CYCLOPS	8-4-17	6-14-18		8-14-18

Served on active duty from 20 June 1917 to 14 June 1918.
 Lost his life when the U.S.S. Cyclops was lost. Death occurred in line of duty.

*Upon enlistment he gave as next of kin
 Annie F. Bailor (mother) 151- Main St.,
 Steelton, Pa.*

The US Cyclops pictured above was ported in the New York harbor 1911