

# Jefferson Barracks Tour

**O**n February 18th, our club was able to tour the Missouri Civil War Museum and the Telephone Museum, both located at Jefferson Barracks. The cloudy, unseasonably warm day brought out many of our members and family for a couple of great tours.

The Missouri Civil War Museum is the state's premier Civil War museum dedicated to honor the thousands of men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice. Through the weapons, equipment, items, and uniforms of those who lived during our nation's defining moment in history, they tell their story in an unbiased interpretation. They offered to let us in for free but they rely on donations to survive, so our members all donated to their cause.

After that tour, we headed down the street to the recently opened Telephone Museum. Besides its extensive collection of telephones manufactured from the 1900s through the 2000s, the Jefferson Barracks Telephone Museum also contains a working Central Office Step Switch, military telephones from WWII through the Vietnam War, hundreds of pieces of telephone-related equipment and tools, a telephone pole complete with climbing equipment, hundreds of pieces of telephone-related memorabilia from the 1880s through the 2000s, a large variety of novelty telephones, a special portable switchboard set up when U.S. Presidents Carter, Ford, Nixon and Johnson were visiting St. Louis and a sculpture of Alexander Graham Bell and history of the invention of the telephone.

Of course, we don't do anything that isn't wrapped around food. Shortly after noon, our crew headed to the *Café Telegraph* for lunch. The food was great and the hamburgers were humongous.

For those who love history, not only these museums but the National Cemetery is loaded with so much of our country's history.

As always, these tours don't just happen. Special thanks go out to BOD member, Bill Bauer, who did great planning on this late winter outing.



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