



## *Little Door to the Fourteenth of December*

Sometimes, as odd it may sound, I like to google a random place whose name I've heard once. It is unlikely that I'll ever visit the place, but it is still interesting to learn about a town or city's history and see how they developed in other countries – what similarities we share, what the differences are. So, today happens to be **New Berlin in Milwaukee** (Wisconsin).

The city is located in eastern Waukesha County with an approximated population of 39,584 (in 2010). It is the 16<sup>th</sup> biggest state in Wisconsin and bordered by the city of Waukesha to the west, Muskego to the south, Brookfield to the north, and West Allis and Greenfield to the east. Since it's history as two distinct periods (according to Niles Niemuth), I'll reflect it in the short timeline I present here.

### **1830s to 1959**

- 📖 Late 1830s: Yankees and Irish the first to settle in the township of New Berlin
- 📖 City was very likely named after New Berlin in NY, not Berlin in Germany
- 📖 1840s: German immigrants settle in the township, first German family in 1840
- 📖 1882: First rail line connecting New Berlin to Milwaukee
- 📖 Until 1960: New Berlin's economy dominated by farming
- 📖 Throughout the 120-year period several ethnic farming communities developed

### **1959 to Present**

- 📖 1959: Incorporated as a city to avoid annexation by neighbouring Brookfield
- 📖 Since 1960s: promotion of industrial and business parks to attract business
- 📖 Introduction of zoning ordinances shifted the economic base towards industry
- 📖 1965: first industrial park opened
- 📖 Late 1970s: Interstate 43 runs through the southern portion of the city, now the main connection to Milwaukee
- 📖 1950s – 1970s – 2010s: Growth from 5,334 to 26,901 to 39,584 inhabitants
- 📖 2011: home to 3 industrial parks and 2 business parks



Barn of Weston's Antique Apple Orchard, built in 1906.

Reflects the agricultural history of the area.