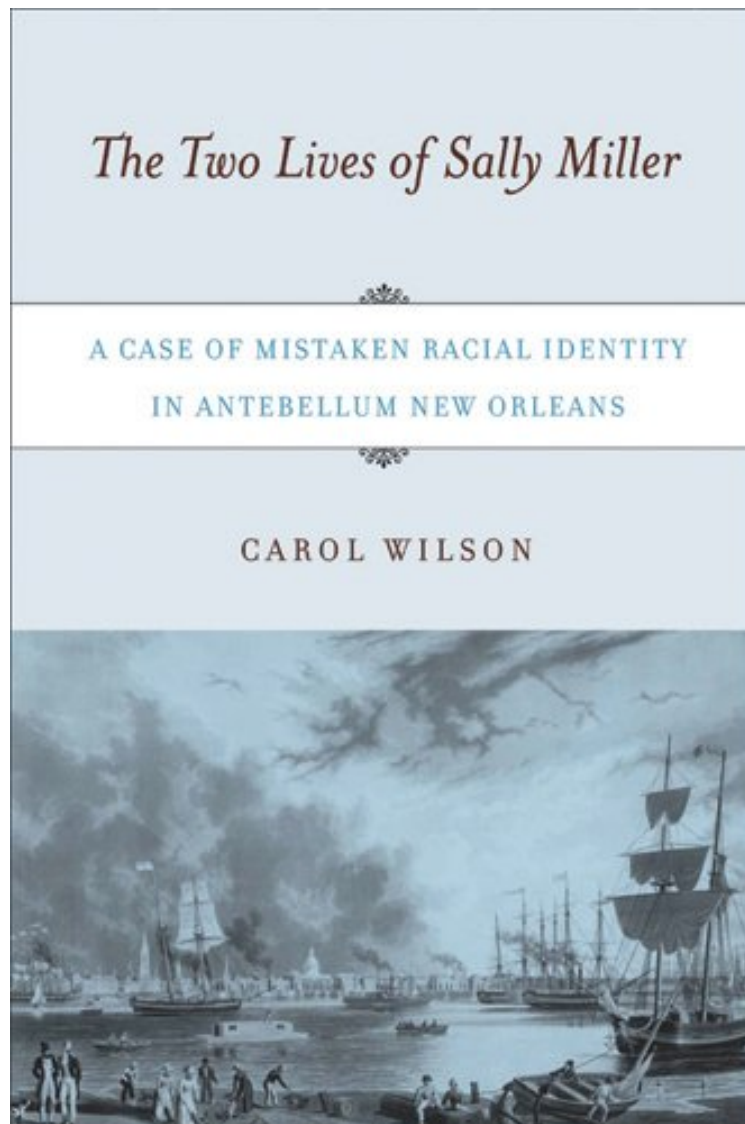


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## The Two Lives of Sally Miller: A Case of Mistaken Racial Identity in Antebellum New Orleans

*Professor Carol Wilson*

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**Professor Carol Wilson : The Two Lives of Sally Miller: A Case of Mistaken Racial Identity in Antebellum New Orleans** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Two Lives of Sally Miller: A Case of Mistaken Racial Identity in Antebellum New Orleans:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two Lives of Sally MillerBy ButterflyFocua - of the book was

primarily "legal" matters related to her case. Ordered this book because I thought it would focus primarily on Sally Miller's personal experience. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A much needed book. By Tracy I had come across Sally's Story, never imagining that a book had been written on the subject. You wonder how could a German Immigrant be mistaken for a Mulatto slave, but it happened. This is the real live case of it. Well written with illustrations. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very Interesting. By Denise Ruth. After reading this book I'm not sure what to think. Without giving the ending I don't think that any one will know what to believe either.

In 1843, the Louisiana Supreme Court heard the case of a slave named Sally Miller, who claimed to have been born a free white person in Germany. Sally, a very light-skinned slave girl working in a New Orleans cafe, might not have known she had a case were it not for a woman who recognized her as Salome Muller, with whom she had emigrated from Germany over twenty years earlier. Sally decided to sue for her freedom, and was ultimately freed, despite strong evidence contrary to her claim. In *The Two Lives of Sally Miller*, Carol Wilson explores this fascinating legal case and its reflection on broader questions about race, society, and law in the antebellum South. Why did a court system known for its extreme bias against African Americans help to free a woman who was believed by many to be a black slave? Wilson explains that while the notion of white enslavement was shocking, it was easier for society to acknowledge that possibility than the alternative—an African slave who deceived whites and triumphed over the system.

"This book is an original and provocative exploration of a purported case of mistaken identity. Wilson offers a unique look at questions of racial identity under the law in the early republic." - Timothy S. Huebner, author of *The Southern Judicial Tradition: State Judges and Sectional Distinctiveness, 1790-1890* About the Author Carol Wilson is an associate professor of history at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland.