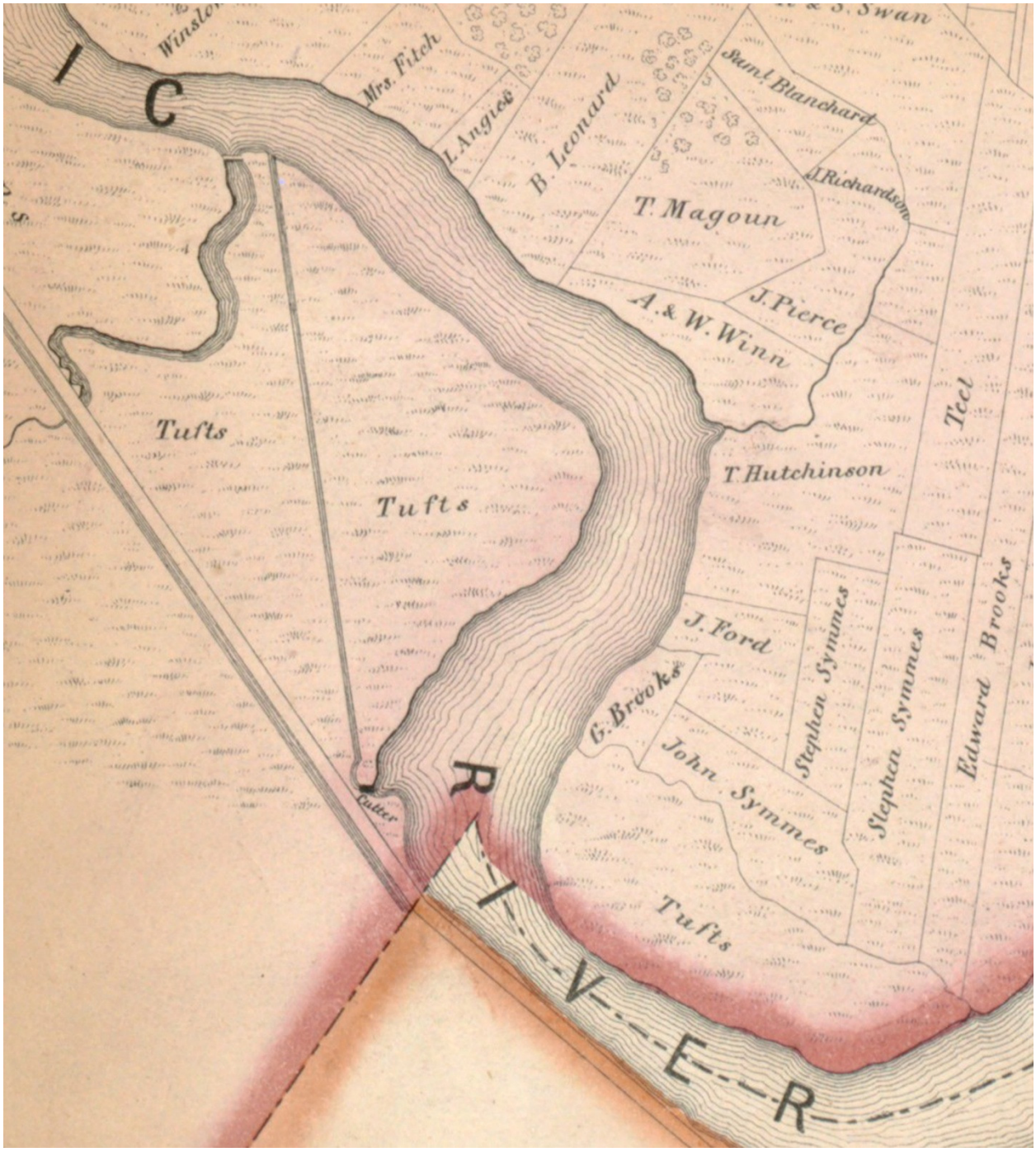
Medford, Massachusetts, Tufts/Cutter

approximate location 42°24'21.8"N 71°05'53.3"W
42.406058, -71.098138

The mill was at the downstream end of a canal through marsh. The canal had its other opening higher upstream. The Mystic River was tidal to a point much farther upstream.



"The Mills on the Medford Turnpike." *Medford Historical Register*, Vol. xxiii, March, 1920, 18-22.

"Whether the proprietors of the Medford turnpike 'builded better than they knew' or not is unknown to any of whom we may now enquire, but the fact was that by its building, a water power was created and later improved as a mill privilege by the owner (or their assigns) of the marsh land through which it passed. ...

In 1848 the turnpike agent was directed 'to consult counsell,' and later 'to confer with the Messrs. Tufts in regard to damage sustained by the corporation by their neglecting to maintain their culvert,' etc. The result of this conference was a three-party agreement. The first party was the owner of the farm occupied by J. Q. Adams; the second, the turnpike company; and the third 'the owners of the saw and grist mills on the turnpike,' William Tufts, Edward Tufts and Gershom Cutter. ... agreed that the mill owners, 'their heirs and assigns shall retain the right to the culvert or sluice at said mills ...

It appears by record of January 4, 1834, that Nathan Tufts asked for leave to open a cut through the road, fifteen feet wide, to carry his new mill near the 'Rock,' so called. This indicates that there had been at least one prior to that date."

in Vol. III, p. 130 of the *Register,* William R. Cutter said: Gershom Cutter, in 1845, purchased the Tufts mill on the Medford Turnpike, rebuilt that structure which had been destroyed by fire and which was again burnt while in his charge. He was mainly engaged in sawing of mahogany.

By the above we see that at least four successive mills stood on that spot--the extreme point of marsh land between the river and turnpike at the 'Rock.'

The Walling map of Medford shows (apparently) a dike extending diagonally across the marsh (including the mouth of Winter brook) to the river. Probably as much power was had at this mill as at Mr. Cutter's former location on old Ship street, but like all tide-mills, the hours of labor had of necessity to conform to the ever-changing hours of 'full sea' and ebb of the tide that 'waits for no man, but serves well. Though the agreement of 1848 refers to saw and grist mills, it is unlikely that the later ones were other than saw mills. ...

Just when this Medford mill ceased operation, or whether it ceased by limitation contained in the above agreement, we may not say with certainty. The fire Department report says 'Jan. 21, 1872. Mill building on Mystic Ave., suposed to be by indendiary. The building was a total loss."

"In One Corner of Medford." *Medford Historical Register*, Vol. xiii, October, 1910, no. 4, 97-98

"The old Tufts Mill stood just within the border of Medford, while one 'salt meadow' next the canal and half the other formed the mill pond. A 'dike' extending from the mill diagonally across the 'meadow' to the river impounded water that furnished power as the tide receded. The mill site was purchased by Gershom Tutter, in 1845, and the mill twice rebuilt by him after desctruction by fire. This, with the business, has long since vanished and Combination Park now occupies a part of the ond site.'

Benjamin Cutter, William R. Cutter. *History of the town of Arlington, Massachusetts, formerly the second precinct in Cambridge, or District of Menotomy, afterward the town of West Cambridge. 1635-1879 with a genealogical register of the inhabitants of the precinct.* (1880.)
http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A2005.05.0003%3Achapter%3D14

Gershom Cutter, a brother of the above, after having had charge of the North mills in Boston, bought the old homestead mills in Medford, and building a new grist and saw mill in 1810, continued in the same occupation till his death in Medford, May 22, 1840. His son Gershom carried on his father's mill until 1845, when he purchased the Tufts mill on the Medford turnpike (now Mystic avenue), rebuilt that structure, which had been destroyed by fire, and which was again burned and rebuilt while in his charge. He was mainly engaged in the sawing of mahogany.

Map

Henry F. Walling. *Map of the Town of Medford, Middlesex County, Mass*. (Boston, 1855).
Leventhal Map Center at Boston Public Library
https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=medford+1855