William Dandridge Peck Encyclopedia Article

William Dandridge Peck

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William Dandridge Peck

1763-1822

Pioneer American naturalist. Although a Harvard graduate, Peck spent twenty years studying nature independently. After a European tour to acquaint himself with the current state of science, he accepted a Harvard professorship in natural science established for him in 1805. In 1818, he published a catalog of the plants in the botanic garden he had laid out in Cambridge, but the bulk of his publications were in economic entomology.