

The cousin Francis with a second son named George Peabody is probably:

Francis Harriet Williams born 1812 New Haven Conn, died 1885 Columbus, GA

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Charles Peabody born 1810 Woodbury, Conn died 1884 Spring Hill AL

Their second son was George Augustus Peabody born 1837 Columbus, GA died 1902 Wheeling, W. VA.

George Peabody was a Sargent in the Confederate Army, he was wounded in 1863, taken prisoner and released in Ohio.

I can't find a documented relationship between the two families, but the facts seem to fit very closely with the statements in this letter.