

Charles W. Hendry in 1860 joined the "Sunny South Guards", which was organized in Tampa, Florida as an independent unit for police protection in the Bay area during the harrowing days preceding the Civil War. Listed as captains were: John T. Lesley, Henry Mitchell (from 1893-97 he was governor of Florida) and Charles W. Hendry.

On July 1, 1861, the "Sunny South Guards", along with nine other companies, were organized as the 4th Florida Regiment. The Guards were mustered in as Company K of the 4th Fla., Confederate States Army. John T. Lesley was elected as captain with Henry L. Mitchell as lieutenant and Charles W. Hendry as 3rd sergeant. On October 24, 1861 at Shaws Point, Manatee, while loading cattle to ship to Cuba, Charles was mustered in as 3rd sergeant by Capt. Lesley. Co. K was stationed at Tampa Bay. In May, 1862, the 4th Fla. was reorganized, and as a consequence Capt. Lesley was promoted to major, Henry L. Mitchell to captain and Charles Hendry to 3rd lieutenant. The 4th was assigned to General Forrest's command of the Army of Tennessee, commanded by General Bragg.

The company muster rolls noted that from November, 1862 to April, 1863 Lt. Hendry was assigned to conscript duty in Florida. The roll of Nov. & Dec. 1862 listed him as promoted to 2nd lieutenant. The roll of July 1 to October 1, 1863 stated, "Name appears in column of names present as C. W. Hendry and signs roll 2 lieut. commanding the company." He was promoted to 1st lieutenant on November 3, 1863. At the Battle of Missionary Ridge on November 25, 1863, the 4th carried in 173 men, and all, except 18, were either killed, wounded or captured. Lt. Hendry was among those captured. Temporarily confined at Louisville, Kentucky, he was transferred as a prisoner of war on December 5, 1863 to Johnson's Island, Ohio. After signing an oath of allegiance, he was released on June 13, 1865. The oath described him thus: "Place of residence, Tampa Bay, Fla.; age, 41 (He was 39); complexion, dark; hair, black; eyes, grey; height, 6 ft." It should be noted that "Soldiers of Florida" listed Charles W. Hendry as the final captain of Co. K. On November 30, 1864, Henry L. Mitchell had resigned as captain and Charles, though a prisoner of war, was given the honor of command.

Charles returned home, and on January 9, 1866 at Bartow, Florida he married for the third time to Mrs. Jane Louise Brown Mansfield. Rev. J. M. Hayman officiated. Born September 13, 1837, Columbia County, Florida, Jane was a daughter of William and Sabra (Scott) Brown. She was the widow of Willard Henry Mansfield, who died May 30, 1864. (They had two sons, George Henry Mansfield and William R. Mansfield.) Charles and Jane had the following children:

4. Esther Mae Hendry, born September 12, 1866; died May 17, 1873.
5. James A. Hendry, born September 29, 1868; died August 14, 1941, Manatee Co., Fla.; married Winona Thompson.
6. Emma Alice Hendry, born September 30, 1870; died after 1940, Fort Myers, Fla.; married 1st, on April 21, 1891, John Judson Tooke; 2nd in 1907, J. B. McCann.
7. Frances Roean Hendry, born October 29, 1873; died April 20, 1896; married Tillii Henderson.