Charles Lincoln was born in 1912 in Boston where he grew up in an environment in which marine life was the dominating family topic. The older generations of his family had come from the Maine coast and the Maritime Provinces. Exciting stories of the sea were related over and over, and in his early boyhood the "in thing" was to sit on the Boston docks watching ships of all kinds enter and leave the harbor. He was enriched by trips to the coast of Maine where the drama of the sea was observed first-hand.

After receiving a degree in Textile Chemistry and Coloring at Lowell Technological Institute in 1937, Lincoln attended art courses to the point where it was necessary for him to learn about ships and the sea through his own research efforts. However, he has continued to study basic art related to the marine scene through private lessons. Knowledgeable marine critics have always been enlisted to provide him with authentic information for his work.

First, the study and accumulated knowledge of the sea in action was required. The collection of information from original and reproduced ship plans and construction details was important because rarely were the tonnage, hull design, sail and deck plans of any two ships identical. Always with a specific ship in mind, working plans, builder's models and historical data were obtained by studying at East Coast marine libraries and museums.

Lincoln's primary goal has been to record in oils a wide variety of pictures of the American Clipper Ships of the 1850's, representing one of the most exciting eras in nautical history. In order to detail the fine rigging and other gear aboard ship, Lincoln prefers large canvasses. His second goal is to capture the moods and tempo of the sea. His works have been commissioned by private collectors and executives throughout the Northeast. A number of one-man exhibits have shown Lincoln's pictures to marine enthusiasts - the most recent being held at the Philadelphia Bulletin in 1973.