Born - November 8, 1857 on farm of her maternal grandfather, Walter Raleigh McCullough, in Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Graduated in 1874 from Titusville High School; took a post-graduate course at the same institution, graduating in 1875. Entered Allegheny College at Meadville, Pa., in the fall of 1875 and graduated in 1880. In the fall of 1880 took position of preceptor of the Poland Union Seminary at Poland, Ohio, where she remained two years. In 1882 returned to Titusville. In 1883 went to Meadville, Pa., as an associate editor of THE CHAUTAUQUAN, where she remained until 1891, when she went to Paris for study, remaining three years, during which time she took lectures in the Sorbonne and College de France and contributed regularly to several American magazines and newspapers.

In 1894 returned to America and in fall of that year began the publication in McClure's Magazine of a Short Life of Napoleon Bonaparte. This work was put into book form in 1896 and at this date fully 100,000 copies have been sold.

In the fall of 1895 she began in McClure's Magazine the "Early Life of Abraham Lincoln," which ran through thirteen numbers of the magazine and which the publishers claim added over 100,000 subscribers to the magazine. In 1896 Miss Tarbell published with Charles Scribner's Sons a biographical study of Madame Roland, the material for which she had collected while a resident of Paris. In the fall of 1896 she undertook to edit under the direction of Charles A. Dana his reminiscences of the Civil War. This work was published in McClure's Magazine beginning in November 1897. In December, 1898 Miss Tarbell began in the same magazine the publication of her later
Life of Lincoln. She is at present a resident of Washington, D. C., where she holds the position of the resident associate editor of McClure's Magazine.