The papers of Joseph Smith were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in October of 1977 by the estate of Joseph Smith and were opened for research in August of 1987.

Joseph Smith was born in Saddleworth, England in 1870. He came to America and settled first in Maryland, but later became a resident of Bay City, Michigan and for the forty years he lived there played a leading role in the Michigan labor movement. He served several terms as president of District 24 of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), was a delegate from the Michigan State Federation of Labor to several American Federation of Labor conventions, and at the time of his death was a member of the state executive board of the CIO. He died in August, 1940.

The papers of Mr. Smith consist primarily of correspondence and miscellaneous documents relating to his work as a union official with District 24 of the UMWA, Bay City, Michigan.
A.F.L. Convention, [c.1911-1912]; Roll Call
Correspondence; 1908-1912, 1932
UMWA; Auditor's report, 1st qtr., 1911
___; Constitution, 1932
___; Delegate credential form, 1909
UMWA District 24; Financial report, 1910
___; President's reports, 1912, 1932
___; Work report, 1910
Wenona Sick, Death and Accident Society, Bayside, Mich., Rules and By-Laws [n.d.]
Wolverine Coal Co. vs A. Andrewjeski; Compensation claim [1913]