The papers of Thomas Ward were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in May of 1981 by his daughter Judith Colleja and were opened for research in May of 1989.

Mr. Ward was a member of Local 157, UAW-CIO. The tool and die local that served a number of companies in Western Detroit and the surrounding area. The papers of Mr. Ward consist primarily of union contracts, memos, and memorabilia relating to Local 157 and its agreements with the Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company located in Detroit, Michigan.