The Statistics of Death at Andersonville

1. In the month of August, what was the mean number of prisoners that died daily? To calculate this, divide the total number of prisoner deaths in August by the number of days in august. Use the data found on the Consolidated Monthly Returns, August 1864

2. Using the daily returns from August 1864, calculate the median number of deaths. Going from least to greatest, list all daily death totals for prisoners. Find the middle number in this row of numbers.

3. In the month of August, what is the mode number of daily prisoner deaths? To calculate this use the daily returns from August 1864. Going from least to greatest, list all daily death totals for prisoners. Determine the number that appears most often.

4. What is the ratio of daily totals of prisoners on hand to the daily number of deaths? List the ratios in order from August 1 to August 31. Note any trends in the increase or decrease of the ratios. Use to daily returns from August 1864.
A. Divide both the number of prisoners that died and the grand total number of total prisoners each by the number of prisoners that died. For example: for August 1, you would divide 74 (the number that died) by 74, and 31,678 (the grand total) by 74. This would give you a ratio of 1:428 (1 death for every 428 prisoners on that particular day).
B. List the ratios for each day and discuss any trends.

Burying the Dead
Detail From a Lithograph by Andersonville Prisoner Thomas O'Dea