

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC
Form N-CSR
February 05, 2004

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number: 811-00041

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS COMPANY, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

450 Lexington Avenue, Suite 3300, New York, New York 10017-3911

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Eugene L. DeStaebler, Jr.
General American Investors Company, Inc.
450 Lexington Avenue
Suite 3300
New York, New York 10017-3911
(Name and address of agent for service)

Copy to:
John E. Baumgardner, Jr., Esq.
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
125 Broad Street
New York, New York 10004

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 212-916-8400

Date of fiscal year end: December 31, 2003

Date of reporting period: December 31, 2003

2

ITEM 1. REPORTS TO STOCKHOLDERS.

GENERAL
AMERICAN
INVESTORS

2003
ANNUAL
REPORT

3

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS COMPANY, INC.

Established in 1927, the Company is a closed-end investment company listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Its objective is long-term capital appreciation through investment in companies with above average growth potential.

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (unaudited)

	2003	2002
Net assets applicable to Common Stock -		
December 31	\$986,335,111	\$809,192,127
Net investment income	855,551	5,238,632
Net realized gain	28,144,510	17,039,043
Net increase (decrease) in unrealized appreciation	200,469,430	(264,293,395)
Distributions to Preferred Stockholders	(11,075,000)	(10,800,000)
Per Common Share-December 31		
Net asset value	\$33.11	\$26.48
Market price	\$29.73	\$23.85
Discount from net asset value	-10.2%	-9.9%
Common Shares outstanding-Dec. 31	29,789,263	30,561,356
Common stockholders of record-Dec. 31	4,500	4,700
Market price range* (high-low)	\$29.78-\$21.95	\$34.89-\$22.17
Market volume-shares	6,280,700	6,978,900

*Unadjusted for dividend payments.

DIVIDEND SUMMARY (per share) (unaudited)

Record Date	Payment Date	Ordinary Income	Long-Term Capital Gain	Total
Common Stock				
Nov. 14, 2003	Dec. 23, 2003	\$.00761	\$.49239	\$.50
Jan. 26, 2004	Feb. 9, 2004	.013	.097	.11
		-----	-----	-----
	Total from 2003 earnings	\$.02061	\$.58939	\$.61
		=====	=====	=====
Nov. 14, 2002	Dec. 23, 2002	\$.022	\$.298	\$.32
Jan. 27, 2003	Feb. 10, 2003	.01	.03	.04
		-----	-----	-----
	Total from 2002 earnings	\$.032	\$.328	\$.36
		=====	=====	=====
Preferred Stock				
Mar. 6, 2003	Mar. 24, 2003	\$.01485	\$.43515	\$.45
Jun. 6, 2003	Jun. 23, 2003	.01485	.43515	.45
Sep. 8, 2003	Sep. 23, 2003	.01485	.43515	.45
Dec. 8, 2003	Dec. 24, 2003	.012272	.359603	.371875
		-----	-----	-----
	Total for 2003	\$.056822	\$1.665053	\$1.721875
		=====	=====	=====
Mar. 6, 2002	Mar. 25, 2002	\$.15525	\$.29475	\$.45

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

Jun. 6, 2002	Jun. 24, 2002	.15525	.29475	.45
Sep. 6, 2002	Sep. 23, 2002	.15525	.29475	.45
Dec. 6, 2002	Dec. 23, 2002	.15525	.29475	.45
Total for 2002		\$.621	\$1.179	\$1.80
		=====	=====	=====

General American Investors Company, Inc.
 450 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017
 (212) 916-8400 (800) 436-8401
 E-mail: InvestorRelations@gainv.com
www.generalamericaninvestors.com

4

1 TO THE STOCKHOLDERS

General American Investors

Following three down years, the U.S. securities market rallied meaningfully, gaining 28.6% in the year ended December 31, 2003, as measured by our benchmark, the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index (including income). General American Investors' net asset value (NAV) per common share (assuming reinvestment of all dividends) increased 27.4%. The return to our common shareholders was 27% as the discount at which our shares trade widened slightly to 10.2% at year-end.

The table that follows, which compares our returns on an annualized basis with the S&P 500, illustrates that over many years General American has produced superior investment results.

Years	Stockholder Return	S&P 500
3	- 1.2%	-4.1%
5	9.8	-0.6
10	14.9	11.0
20	14.3	13.0
30	15.7	12.2
40	13.1	10.6

During 2003, the Company purchased 1,106,600 of its common shares in the open market at an average discount to NAV of 9.7%. The Board of Directors has authorized repurchases of common shares when they are trading at a discount in excess of 8% of NAV.

The cumulative return for our stockholders, as illustrated on pages 4 and 5, is close to the peak reached during the last 20 years. Total assets, meanwhile, are near \$1.2 billion, reflecting, in part, the redemption of \$150 million liquidation value of 7.20% Cumulative Preferred Stock and its replacement with \$200 million of 5.95% Cumulative Preferred Stock. The costs attending this refinancing were fully absorbed in the year just ended.

In the first half of last year, investor concerns were centered on the war in Iraq and on economic weakness and deflation, with the yield on 10-year treasury notes falling to near 3% as investors sought safety. By the end of the third quarter, spurred by the conclusion of the conventional war and aggressive monetary and fiscal policy, the economy was growing at a rapid 7% annualized

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

pace and investors bid up share prices. Despite the sheltering effects of sharp gains in manufacturing productivity and low cost imports, inflation had become a focus of investor anxiety.

In 2004, an election year, it appears that the monetary authorities will retain their aggressive stance and that the economy will continue to grow with attendant gains in capital spending and employment. America's sizeable trade and budget deficits may continue to weigh on the dollar, however, leading to rising inflationary expectations and interest rates. Although inflation has increased at a rate of only around 2% as measured by the Consumer Price Index, other indicators of inflation like housing prices, energy and other commodity costs have risen more rapidly. Longer term, of course, chronically unbalanced finances cannot endure. With almost 80 million "baby boomers" scheduled to start collecting Social Security within the next five years and Medicare benefits within the next eight, a solution short of selling more bonds or printing money must be found.

The market has moved broadly higher accompanied by the emergence of extremely high valuations centered on technology stocks. Its future course should be determined by the sustainability of the economy's recovery and, while the equity markets are not likely to generate gains of the magnitude experienced last year, we are encouraged by the presence, currently, of select opportunities to invest in high quality companies at reasonable prices.

Information about the Company, including our investment objective, operating policies and procedures, investment results, record of dividend payments, financial reports and press releases, etc. is available on our website which can be accessed at www.generalamericaninvestors.com.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Spencer Davidson
President and Chief Executive Officer
January 14, 2004

5

2 THE COMPANY

General American Investors

Corporate Overview

General American Investors, established in 1927, is one of the nation's oldest closed-end investment companies. It is an independent organization, internally managed. For regulatory purposes, the Company is classified as a diversified, closed-end management investment company; it is registered under and subject to the regulatory provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Investment Policy

The primary objective of the Company is long-term capital appreciation. Lesser emphasis is placed on current income. In seeking to achieve its primary objective, the Company invests principally in common stocks believed by its management to have better than average growth potential.

The Company's investment approach focuses on the selection of individual stocks, each of which is expected to meet a clearly defined portfolio objective. A continuous investment research program, which stresses fundamental security analysis, is carried on by the officers and staff of the Company under the

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

oversight of the Board of Directors. A listing of the directors with their principal affiliations, showing a broad range of experience in business and financial affairs, is on page 16 of this report.

Portfolio Manager

Mr. Spencer Davidson has been responsible for the management of General American's portfolio since he was elected President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company in August 1995. Mr. Davidson, who joined the Company in 1994 as senior investment counselor, has spent his entire business career on Wall Street since first joining an investment and banking firm in 1966.

"GAM" Common Stock

As a closed-end investment company, General American Investors does not offer its shares continuously. The Common Stock is listed on The New York Stock Exchange (symbol, GAM) and can be bought or sold with commissions determined in the same manner as all listed stocks. Net asset value is computed daily (on an unaudited basis) and is furnished upon request. It is also available on most electronic quotation services using the symbol "XGAMX." The figure for net asset value per share, together with the market price and the percentage discount or premium from net asset value as of the close of each week, is published in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and Barron's.

The ratio of market price to net asset value has shown considerable variation over a long period of time. While shares of GAM usually sell at a discount from their underlying net asset value, as do the shares of most other domestic equity closed-end investment companies, they, periodically, sell at a premium over net asset value. The last time the Company's shares sold at a premium for a prolonged period was the year-long period from March 1992 through April 1993. During 2003, the stock sold at discounts from net asset value which ranged from 8.1% (January 7 and April 24) to 10.9% (November 6). At December 31, the price of the stock was at a discount of 10.2% as compared with a discount of 9.9% a year earlier.

"GAM Pr B" Preferred Stock

On September 24, 2003, the Company issued and sold in an underwritten offering 8,000,000 shares of its 5.95% Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series B with a liquidation preference of \$25 per share (\$200,000,000 in the aggregate).

The Preferred Shares are noncallable for 5 years, are rated "aaa" by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and are listed and traded on The New York Stock Exchange (symbol, GAM Pr B).

6

3 THE COMPANY

General American Investors

The preferred capital is available to leverage the investment performance of the Common Stockholders. As is the case for leverage in general, it may also result in higher market volatility for the Common Stockholders.

Dividend Policy

The Company's dividend policy is to distribute to stockholders before year-end substantially all ordinary income estimated for the full year and capital gains realized during the ten-month period ending October 31 of that year. If any additional capital gains are realized or ordinary income is earned during the last two months of the year, a "spill-over" distribution of these amounts will be paid early in the following year to Common Stockholders. Dividends on shares

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

of Preferred Stock are paid quarterly. Distributions from capital gains and ordinary income are allocated proportionately among holders of shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock.

Dividends from income have been paid continuously on the Common Stock since 1939 and capital gain dividends in varying amounts have been paid for each of the years 1943-2003 (except for the year 1974). (A table listing dividends paid during the 20-year period 1984-2003 is shown at the bottom of page 6.) To the extent that shares can be issued, dividends are paid to Common Stockholders in additional shares of Common Stock unless the stockholder specifically requests payment in cash. Spill-over dividends of nominal amounts are paid in cash only.

Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures

The policies and procedures used by General American Investors to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities are available: 1) without charge, upon request, by calling the Company at its toll-free number (1-800-436-8401), (2) on the Company's website at <http://www.generalamericaninvestors.com> and (3) on the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

Direct Registration

In December 2002, the Company initiated Direct Registration ("DR") for its Common Shareholders. DR is a system that allows for book-entry ownership and the electronic transfer of our Common Shares. Accordingly, when Common Shareholders, who hold their shares directly, receive new shares resulting from a purchase, transfer or dividend payment, they will receive a statement showing the credit of the new shares as well as their book-entry and certificated share balances. A brochure which describes the features and benefits of Direct Registration, including the ability of shareholders to deposit certificates with our transfer agent, is located at our Website - www.generalamericaninvestors.com - under Additional Information - Transfer Agent Services. The brochure can also be obtained by contacting our Corporate Secretary at 1-800-436-8401.

Privacy Policy and Practices

General American Investors collects nonpublic personal information about its customers (stockholders) with respect to their transactions in shares of the Company's securities but only for those stockholders whose shares are registered in their names. This information includes the stockholder's address, tax identification or Social Security number and dividend elections. We do not have knowledge of, nor do we collect personal information about, stockholders who hold the Company's securities at financial institutions such as brokers or banks in "street name" registration.

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about our stockholders or former stockholders to anyone, except as permitted by law.

We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about our stockholders to those employees who need to know that information to provide services to our stockholders. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal standards to guard our stockholders' nonpublic personal information.

7

4 INVESTMENT RESULTS (UNAUDITED)

General American Investors

"Total return on \$10,000 investment 20 years ended December 31, 2003"

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

The investment return for a common stockholder of General American Investors (GAM) over the 20 years ended December 31, 2003 is shown in the table below and in the accompanying chart. The return based on GAM's net asset value (NAV) per common share in comparison to the change in the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index (S&P 500) is also displayed. Each illustration assumes an investment of \$10,000 at the beginning of 1984.

The Stockholder Return is the return a common stock holder of GAM would have achieved assuming reinvestment of all optional dividends at the actual reinvestment price and reinvestment of all cash dividends at the average (mean between high and low) market price on the ex-dividend date.

The GAM Net Asset Value (NAV) Return is the return on shares of the Company's common stock based on the NAV per share, including the reinvestment of all dividends.

The S&P 500 Return is the time-weighted total rate of return on this widely-recognized, unmanaged index which is a measure of general stock market performance, including dividend income.

The results illustrated are a record of past performance and may not be indicative of future results.

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS						
STOCKHOLDER RETURN		NET ASSET VALUE RETURN		STANDARD & POOR'S 500 RETURN		
CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT	ANNUAL RETURN	CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT	ANNUAL RETURN	CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT	ANNUAL RETURN	
1984	\$9,284	-7.16%	\$9,291	-7.09%	\$10,628	6.28%
1985	11,587	24.81	12,543	35.00	14,005	31.77
1986	12,882	11.17	13,944	11.17	16,622	18.69
1987	10,806	-16.11	14,297	2.53	17,493	5.24
1988	13,104	21.26	16,809	17.57	20,385	16.53
1989	19,472	48.60	23,172	37.86	26,830	31.62
1990	20,251	4.00	24,723	6.69	26,001	-3.09
1991	37,465	85.00	39,826	61.09	33,905	30.40
1992	43,002	14.78	41,239	3.55	36,479	7.59
1993	36,156	-15.92	40,518	-1.75	40,170	10.12
1994	33,314	-7.86	39,407	-2.74	40,681	1.27
1995	40,384	21.22	48,700	23.58	55,936	37.50
1996	48,250	19.48	58,425	19.97	68,751	22.91
1997	68,795	42.58	77,150	32.05	91,665	33.33
1998	90,335	31.31	104,261	35.14	117,836	28.55
1999	125,765	39.22	142,212	36.40	142,534	20.96
2000	149,786	19.10	167,298	17.64	129,578	-9.09
2001	156,271	4.33	165,291	-1.20	114,171	-11.89
2002	113,750	-27.21	127,241	-23.02	88,894	-22.14
2003	144,474	27.01	162,105	27.40	114,282	28.56

8

5 INVESTMENT RESULTS (UNAUDITED)

 General American Investors

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

[CAPTION]

[Line graph with heading "20-YEAR INVESTMENT RESULTS ASSUMING AN INITIAL INVESTMENT OF \$10,000" at top left hand side. The vertical axis is to the right side of the page and is labeled "CUMULATIVE VALUE OF INVESTMENT." The axis range is from \$0 to \$200,000 in \$20,000 increments. The horizontal axis, on the bottom of the page, consists of the years 1984 through 2003 in one year increments. Within the graph are three lines. The first line represents GAM Stockholder Return. The second line represents GAM Net Asset Value, and the third line represents the S&P 500 Stock Index. The data points for the lines are derived from the columns labeled "Cumulative Investment" from the table on the preceding page. Also, embedded in upper left portion of the graph is a table which appears as follows:]

COMPARATIVE ANNUALIZED INVESTMENT RESULTS

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003	STOCKHOLDER RETURN	GAM NET ASSET VALUE	S&P 500 STOCK INDEX
1 year	27.0 %	27.4 %	28.6 %
5 years	9.8	9.2	-0.6
10 years	14.9	14.9	11.0
15 years	17.4	16.3	12.2
20 years	14.3	14.9	13.0

9

6 MAJOR STOCK CHANGES*: THREE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 (UNAUDITED)

General American Investors

INCREASES	SHARES	SHARES HELD DECEMBER 31, 2003
NEW POSITIONS		
Bank of America Corporation	100,000	100,000
CEMEX, S.A. de C.V.	463,500	463,500
Devon Energy Corporation	370,700	650,000 (a)
FleetBoston Financial Corporation	150,000	150,000
MFA Mortgage Investments, Inc.	575,000	575,000
ADDITIONS		
Annaly Mortgage Management, Inc.	250,000	825,000
MedImmune, Inc.	221,000	455,000
Medtronic, Inc.	160,000	450,000
Pfizer Inc	225,000	1,325,000
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	105,000	675,000

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

DECREASES

ELIMINATIONS

The Boeing Company	20,000	-
Max Re Capital Ltd.	110,000	-
Zarlink Semiconductor Inc.	250,000	-

REDUCTIONS

American International Group, Inc.	10,000	325,000
Everest Re Group, Ltd.	40,000	650,000
Genentech, Inc.	20,000	315,000
Golden West Financial Corporation	65,000	335,000
John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.	95,000	330,000
The Home Depot, Inc.	25,000	1,920,000
OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	45,000	30,000
SunTrust Banks, Inc.	20,000	205,000

* Excludes transactions in Stocks-Miscellaneous-Other.

(a) Includes shares purchased in prior period and previously carried under Stocks-Miscellaneous-Other.

DIVIDENDS PER COMMON SHARE (1984-2003) (UNAUDITED)

The following table shows aggregate dividends paid per share on the Company's Common Stock for each year during the 20-year period 1984-2003. Amounts shown include payments made after year-end attributable to income and gain in each respective year.

YEAR	DIVIDEND FROM	
	INCOME#	LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS
1984	\$.28	\$1.35
1985	.47	1.07
1986	.36	2.15
1987	.35	1.54
1988	.29	1.69
1989	.23	1.56
1990	.21	1.65
1991	.09	3.07
1992	.03	2.93
1993	.06	2.34
1994	.06	1.59
1995	.13	2.77
1996	.25	2.71
1997	.21	2.95
1998	.47	4.40
1999	1.04	4.05
2000	2.03	6.16
2001	1.01	1.37
2002	.03	.33

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

2003 .02 .59

#Includes short-term capital gains per share which amounted to \$.12 in 1985, \$.02 in 1989, \$.03 in 1995, \$.05 in 1996, \$.62 in 1999, \$1.55 in 2000 and \$.64 in 2001.

10

7 TEN LARGEST INVESTMENT HOLDINGS (UNAUDITED)

 General American Investors

The statement of investments as of December 31, 2003, shown on pages 10 and 11 includes 58 security issues. Listed here are the ten largest holdings on that date.

	SHARES	VALUE	%
THE HOME DEPOT, INC. The largest company in home center retailing, Home Depot's proven merchandising capabilities and strong financial structure should provide the basis for continuing growth.	1,920,000	\$68,140,800	NE
THE TJX COMPANIES, INC. Through its T.J. Maxx and Marshalls divisions, TJX is a leading off-price retailer. The continued growth of these divisions, along with expansion into related U.S. and foreign off-price formats, provide ongoing opportunities.	2,500,000	55,125,000	
EVEREST RE GROUP, LTD. The largest independent U.S. property/casualty reinsurer which generates annual premiums of approximately \$4.5 billion and has a high quality, well-reserved AA balance sheet. This Bermuda domiciled company has a strong management team that exercises prudent underwriting discipline and efficient expense control, resulting in above-average earnings progress.	650,000	54,990,000	
PFIZER INC Well established as a leader in the pharmaceutical industry, Pfizer continues to reap the benefits of its commitment to research and development and its ability to effectively market products. With the acquisition of Pharmacia now complete, Pfizer continues to optimize its corporate structure and is streamlining the company for optimal growth and success as a transforming force in global healthcare.	1,325,000	46,812,250	
DEVON ENERGY CORPORATION One of the largest independent oil and gas exploration and production companies, Devon operates both domestically and internationally. Recent opportunistic acquisitions enhanced production volumes and improved the company's exploration profile.	650,000	37,219,000	

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

WAL-MART STORES, INC.	675,000	35,808,750
A policy of serving the mass market with everyday low prices, supported by the lowest cost structure has made Wal-Mart the world's largest retailer with ongoing growth opportunities in the U.S. and overseas.		

GOLDEN WEST FINANCIAL CORPORATION	335,000	34,568,650
A savings and loan holding company with over \$80 billion in assets headquartered in Oakland, CA. It has a strong, conservative management with a high level of insider ownership. Excellent asset quality, tight expense control and efficient capital management help produce above-average earnings increases.		

M & T BANK CORPORATION	310,000	30,473,000
A bank holding company with over \$50 billion in assets headquartered in Buffalo, NY. It has strong, opportunistic management with a high level of ownership and a history of enhancing shareholder value. High asset quality, excellent expense control, share repurchases and adroit acquisitions help generate above-average earnings growth.		

REPUBLIC SERVICES, INC.	1,175,000	30,115,250
A leading provider of non-hazardous solid waste collection and disposal services through 141 collection companies in 22 states. The efficient operation of its routes and facilities combined with appropriate pricing enable the company to generate significant free cash flow. Republic Services' share price should benefit from additional contracts, a pick up in waste volumes with improved economic activity and share repurchases by the company.		

GENENTECH, INC.	315,000	29,474,550
A leading biotechnology company focused on the development and production of biotherapeutics for medical needs. With a strong product portfolio, recent FDA drug approvals and a broad pipeline of product opportunities, Genentech is positioned for continued success.		

		\$422,727,250
		=====

*Net assets applicable to the Company's Common Stock.

11

8 STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

General American Investors

	DECEMBER 31,	
	2003	2002
ASSETS	-----	
INVESTMENTS, AT VALUE (NOTE 1a)		

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

Common stocks (cost \$512,775,431 and \$417,614,713, respectively)	\$927,510,131	\$629,812,2
Convertible corporate notes (cost \$9,714,002 and \$11,464,420, respectively)	10,250,000	11,450,0
Corporate discount notes (cost \$149,931,413 and \$222,859,450, respectively)	149,931,413	222,859,4
U.S. Treasury bills (cost \$99,546,882 and \$98,645,315, respectively)	99,546,882	98,645,3
	-----	-----
Total investments (cost \$771,967,728 and \$750,583,898, respectively)	1,187,238,426	962,767,0
CASH, RECEIVABLES AND OTHER ASSETS		
Cash (including margin account balance of \$3,455 for 2002)	54,695	68,4
Receivable for securities sold	2,731,429	1,394,9
Deposit with broker for securities sold short	13,684,582	5,710,6
Dividends, interest and other receivables	2,093,543	1,534,4
Prepaid expenses	6,979,584	6,474,0
Other	321,045	455,6
	-----	-----
TOTAL ASSETS	1,213,103,304	978,405,3
	-----	-----
LIABILITIES		
	-----	-----
Payable for securities purchased	1,480,264	5,905,8
Preferred dividend accrued but not yet declared	231,389	240,0
Securities sold short, at value (proceeds \$13,684,582 and \$5,710,669, respectively) (note 1a)	15,307,245	4,715,1
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	9,749,295	8,352,2
	-----	-----
TOTAL LIABILITIES	26,768,193	19,213,1
	-----	-----
CUMULATIVE PREFERRED STOCK -		
5.95% Series B, 8,000,000 shares and 7.20% Tax-Advantaged, 6,000,000 shares, respectively, at a liquidation value of \$25 per share (note 2)	200,000,000	150,000,0
	-----	-----
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK -		
29,789,263 and 30,561,356 shares, respectively (note 2)	\$986,335,111	\$809,192,1
	=====	=====
NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE	\$33.11	\$26.
	=====	=====
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK		
	-----	-----
Common Stock, 29,789,263 and 30,561,356 shares at par value, respectively (note 2)	\$29,789,263	\$30,561,3
Additional paid-in capital (note 2)	538,866,532	563,709,7
Undistributed realized gain on investments (note 2)	2,951,398	1,089,2
Undistributed net income (note 2)	1,311,272	893,2
Unallocated distributions on Preferred Stock	(231,389)	(240,0
Unrealized appreciation on investments and securities sold short (including aggregate gross unrealized appreciation of \$459,535,751 and \$303,127,054, respectively)	413,648,035	213,178,6
	-----	-----
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK	\$986,335,111	\$809,192,1
	=====	=====

(see notes to financial statements)

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

12

9 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

General American Investors

INCOME	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,	
	2003	2002
Dividends (net of foreign withholding taxes of \$21,770 in 2002)	\$7,810,852	\$8,131,252
Interest	4,168,048	6,259,873
TOTAL INCOME	11,978,900	14,391,125
EXPENSES		
Investment research	6,977,145	5,353,349
Administration and operations	2,862,224	2,423,028
Office space and general	554,237	594,154
Auditing and legal fees	188,250	211,000
Transfer agent, custodian and registrar fees and expenses	176,626	208,974
Directors' fees and expenses	160,213	152,486
Stockholders' meeting and reports	118,874	127,208
Miscellaneous taxes	85,780	82,294
TOTAL EXPENSES	11,123,349	9,152,493
NET INVESTMENT INCOME	855,551	5,238,632
REALIZED GAIN AND CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION ON INVESTMENTS (NOTES 1e AND 4)		
Net realized gain on investments:		
Long transactions	28,586,216	6,036,466
Short sale transactions (note 1b)	(441,706)	11,002,577
Net realized gain on investments (long-term)	28,144,510	17,039,043
Net increase (decrease) in unrealized appreciation	200,469,430	(264,293,395)
NET GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS	228,613,940	(247,254,352)
DISTRIBUTIONS TO PREFERRED STOCKHOLDERS	(11,075,000)	(10,800,000)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	218,394,491	(252,815,720)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (NOTE 1d)	283,689	459,565
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	\$218,678,180	(\$252,356,155)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

OPERATIONS	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,	
	2003	2002
Net investment income	\$855,551	\$5,238,632
Net realized gain on investments	28,144,510	17,039,043
Net increase (decrease) in unrealized appreciation	200,469,430	(264,293,395)
Distributions to Preferred Stockholders:		
From net income	(365,476)	(3,726,000)
From long-term capital gains	(10,709,524)	(7,074,000)
Decrease in net assets from preferred distributions	(11,075,000)	(10,800,000)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	218,394,491	(252,815,720)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	283,689	459,565
DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS		
From net income, including short-term capital gains in 2002	(531,570)	(6,606,164)
From long-term capital gains	(15,572,788)	(12,540,285)
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM COMMON DISTRIBUTIONS	(16,104,358)	(19,146,449)
CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS		
Value of Common Shares issued in payment of dividends (note 2)	9,724,118	6,410,677
Cost of Common Shares purchased (note 2)	(28,454,956)	(23,245,666)
Underwriting discount and other expenses associated with the issuance of Preferred Stock (note 2)	(6,700,000)	-
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS - CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS	(25,430,838)	(16,834,989)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	177,142,984	(288,337,593)
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK		
BEGINNING OF YEAR	809,192,127	1,097,529,720
END OF YEAR (including undistributed net income of \$1,311,272 and \$893,202, respectively)	\$986,335,111	\$809,192,127

(see notes to financial statements)

13

10 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS: DECEMBER 31, 2003

General American Investors

COMMON STOCKS

SHARES OR PRINCIPAL AMOUNT

BUILDING AND REAL ESTATE (1.2%) 463,500 CEMEX, S.A. de C.V. (COST \$11,394

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SERVICES (5.6%)	550,000 CIENA Corporation (a) 900,000 Cisco Systems, Inc. (a) 620,000 Cox Communications, Inc. Class A (a) 450,000 Juniper Networks, Inc. (a)	(COST \$31,949,
COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND SYSTEMS (1.0%)	300,000 EMC Corporation (a) 350,000 VeriSign, Inc. (a)	(COST \$4,111,
CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES (2.8%)	275,000 Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. 275,000 Ethan Allen Interiors Inc. 125,000 Newell Rubbermaid Inc. 150,000 PepsiCo, Inc.	(COST \$17,111,
ELECTRONICS (2.1%)	692,500 Molex Incorporated Class A	(COST \$14,877,
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (INCLUDING SERVICES) (3.0%)	1,175,000 Republic Services, Inc.	(COST \$26,227,
FINANCE AND INSURANCE (31.5%)	BANKING (9.5%) 100,000 Bank of America Corporation 150,000 FleetBoston Financial Corporation 335,000 Golden West Financial Corporation 310,000 M&T Bank Corporation 205,000 SunTrust Banks, Inc.	(COST \$21,970,
	INSURANCE (19.7%) 325,000 American International Group, Inc. 1,000,000 Annuity and Life Re (Holdings), Ltd. 300 Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Class A (a) 650,000 Everest Re Group, Ltd. 330,000 John Hancock Financial Services, Inc. 435,000 MetLife, Inc. 500,000 PartnerRe Ltd. 425,000 Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated 230,000 Transatlantic Holdings, Inc.	(COST \$94,253,
	OTHER (2.3%) 825,000 Annaly Mortgage Management, Inc. 90,184 Central Securities Corporation 575,000 MFA Mortgage Investments, Inc.	(COST \$17,830, (COST \$134,053

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

HEALTH CARE (19.3%)

PHARMACEUTICALS (14.8%)

340,000 Alkermes, Inc. (a)
 900,000 Baxter International Inc.
 275,000 Biogen Idec Inc. (a)
 300,000 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
 270,000 Genaera Corporation (a)
 315,000 Genentech, Inc. (a)
 375,000 Genta Incorporated (a)
 455,000 MedImmune, Inc. (a)
 120,000 Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)
 30,000 OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)
 1,325,000 Pfizer Inc

(COST \$103,936

MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS AND DEVICES (2.2%)

450,000 Medtronic, Inc.

(COST \$10,483,

HEALTH CARE SERVICES (2.3%)

695,000 Health Net, Inc. (a)

(COST \$15,334,

(COST \$129,754

14

11 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS: DECEMBER 31, 2003 - continued

General American Investors

COMMON STOCKS (Continued)

SHARES OR PRINCIPAL AMOUNT

MISCELLANEOUS (0.7%)

Other

(COST \$5,672,9

OIL AND NATURAL GAS
 (INCLUDING SERVICES)
 (5.5%)

650,000 Devon Energy Corporation
 650,000 Halliburton Company

(COST \$39,828,

RETAIL TRADE (18.8%)

700,000 Costco Wholesale Corporation (a)
 1,920,000 The Home Depot, Inc. (b)
 2,500,000 The TJX Companies, Inc.
 675,000 Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

(COST \$68,036,

SEMICONDUCTORS (2.3%)

200,000 Applied Materials, Inc. (a)
 250,000 ASM International N.V. (a)

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

491,500 Brooks Automation, Inc. (a)
 197,000 EMCORE Corporation (a)
 1,644,900 IQE plc (a)

(COST \$21,748,

 SPECIAL HOLDINGS 400,000 Cytokinetics, Incorporated Series E Preferred
 (a) (c) 144,000 Silicon Genesis Corporation
 (NOTE 5) (0.2%) 546,000 Standard MEMS, Inc. Series A Convertible Preferred
 (COST \$8,009,7

 TOTAL COMMON STOCKS (94.0%) (COST \$512,775

 CONVERTIBLE CORPORATE NOTE

HEALTH CARE (1.0%) \$10,000,000 MedImmune Vaccines, Inc. 5 1/4% due 2/1/08 (COST \$9,714,0

 SHORT-TERM SECURITIES AND OTHER ASSETS

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT

 \$8,800,000 AIG Funding, Inc. note due 2/2/04; 1.01%
 29,700,000 American Express Credit Corporation notes due 1/5-1/27/04; 1.05%
 15,300,000 American General Finance Corporation note due 2/5/04; 1.03%
 25,400,000 General Electric Capital Corporation notes due 1/8-2/3/04; 1.05%-1.08%
 14,000,000 General Motors Acceptance Corporation notes due 1/6-1/30/04; 1.36%-1.38%
 34,400,000 Prudential Funding, LLC notes due 1/2-1/22/04; 1.02%-1.06%
 22,500,000 Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. notes due 1/12-1/26/04; 1.10%-1.15%
 100,000,000 U.S. Treasury bills due 2/26-3/18/04; 0.98%-1.00%

TOTAL SHORT-TERM SECURITIES (25.3%) (COST \$249,478

Liabilities in excess of cash, receivables and other assets

TOTAL SHORT-TERM SECURITIES AND OTHER ASSETS, NET (25.2%)

PREFERRED STOCK (-20.2%)

NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK (100%)

- (a) Non-income producing security.
 (b) 1,000,000 shares held by custodian in a segregated custodian account as collateral for open s
 (c) Restricted security.
 (d) Fair value of each holding in the opinion of the Directors.

 STATEMENT OF SECURITIES SOLD SHORT: DECEMBER 31, 2003

General American Investors

COMMON STOCKS

SHARES

 72,000 Electronic Arts Inc.
 300,000 NASDAQ - 100 Trust, Series 1

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

24,100

Southwest Bancorporation of Texas, Inc.

TOTAL SECURITIES SOLD SHORT

(PROCEEDS \$13,

(see notes to financial statements)

15

12 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

General American Investors

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General American Investors Company, Inc. (the "Company"), established in 1927, is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as a closed-end, diversified management investment company. It is internally managed by its officers under the direction of the Board of Directors.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Certain prior year financial statement items have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

a. SECURITY VALUATION Securities traded on securities exchanges or on the NASDAQ National Market System are valued at the last reported sales price on the last business day of the period. Listed and NASDAQ securities for which no sales are reported on that day and other securities traded in the over-the-counter market are valued at the last bid price (asked price for open short positions) on the valuation date. Corporate discount notes and U.S. Treasury bills are valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value. Special holdings are valued at fair value in the opinion of the Directors. In determining fair value, in the case of restricted shares, consideration is given to cost, operating and other financial data and, where applicable, subsequent private offerings or market price of the issuer's unrestricted shares (to which a 30 percent discount would be applied).

b. SHORT SALES The Company may make short sales of securities for either speculative or hedging purposes. When the Company makes a short sale, it borrows the securities sold short from a broker; in addition, the Company places cash with that broker and securities in a segregated account with the custodian, both as collateral for the short position. The Company may be required to pay a fee to borrow the securities and may also be obligated to pay any dividends declared on the borrowed securities. The Company will realize a gain if the security price decreases and a loss if the security price increases between the date of the short sale and the date on which the Company replaces the borrowed securities.

c. FEDERAL INCOME TAXES The Company's policy is to fulfill the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to regulated investment companies and to distribute substantially all taxable income to its stockholders. Accordingly, no provision for Federal income taxes is required.

d. OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME Pursuant to FAS 87, the Company recognizes on an amortized basis the excess of the fair value of its pension plan assets over the present value of accumulated plan benefits.

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

e. OTHER As customary in the investment company industry, securities transactions are recorded as of the trade date. Dividend income and distributions to stockholders are recorded as of the ex-dividend dates. Interest income, adjusted for amortization of discount and premium on investments, is earned from settlement date and is recognized on the accrual basis. Cost of short-term investments represents amortized cost.

2. CAPITAL STOCK AND DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTIONS

The authorized capital stock of the Company consists of 50,000,000 shares of Common Stock, \$1.00 par value, and 10,000,000 shares of Preferred Stock, \$1.00 par value, of which 29,789,263 shares and 8,000,000 shares, respectively, were outstanding at December 31, 2003.

On September 23, 2003, the Company redeemed all of its then outstanding 6,000,000 shares of 7.20% Tax-Advantaged Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series A, at a redemption price of \$25.00 per share. The Series A Preferred Shares were issued originally on June 19, 1998.

On September 24, 2003, the Company issued and sold 8,000,000 shares of its 5.95% Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series B in an underwritten offering. The Preferred Shares are noncallable for 5 years and have a liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share plus an amount equal to accumulated and unpaid dividends to the date of redemption. The underwriting discount and other expenses associated with the Preferred Stock offering amounted to \$6,700,000 and were charged to paid-in capital.

The Company is required to allocate distributions from long-term capital gains and other types of income proportionately among holders of shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock. To the extent that dividends on the shares of Preferred Stock are not paid from long-term capital gains, they will be paid from ordinary income or net short-term capital gains or will represent a return of capital.

Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Company is required to maintain an asset coverage of at least 200% for the Preferred Stock. In addition, pursuant to the Rating Agency Guidelines, the Company is required to maintain a certain discounted asset coverage for its portfolio that equals or exceeds the Basic Maintenance Amount under the guidelines established by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. The Company has met these requirements since the issuance of the Preferred Stock. If the Company fails to meet these requirements in the future and does not cure such failure, the Company may be required to redeem in whole or in part, shares of Preferred Stock at a redemption price of \$25.00 per share plus accumulated and unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared). In addition, the Company's failure to meet the foregoing asset coverage requirements could restrict its ability to pay dividends on shares of Common Stock and could lead to sales of portfolio securities at inopportune times.

The holders of Preferred Stock have voting rights equivalent to those of the holders of Common Stock (one vote per share) and, generally, vote together with the holders of Common Stock as a single class.

At all times, holders of Preferred Stock will elect two members of the Company's Board of Directors and the holders of Preferred and Common Stock, voting as a single class, will elect the remaining directors. If the Company fails to pay dividends on the Preferred Stock in an amount equal to two full years' dividends, the holders of Preferred Stock will have the right to elect a majority of the directors. In addition, the Investment Company Act of 1940 requires that approval of the holders of a majority of any outstanding Preferred Shares, voting separately as a class, would be required to (a) adopt any plan of

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

reorganization that would adversely affect the Preferred Stock and (b) take any action requiring a vote of security holders, including, among other things, changes in the Company's subclassification as a closed-end investment company or changes in its fundamental investment policies.

16

13 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

 General American Investors

2. CAPITAL STOCK AND DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTIONS - (Continued from bottom of previous page.)

The Company classifies its Preferred Stock pursuant to the requirements of EITF D-98, Classification and Measurement of Redeemable Securities, which require that preferred stock for which its redemption is outside of the Company's control should be presented outside of net assets in the statement of assets and liabilities.

Transactions in Common Stock during 2003 and 2002 were as follows:

	SHARES		AMOUNT	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
Shares issued in payment of dividends (includes 334,507 and 251,893 shares issued from treasury, respectively)	334,507	251,893	\$334,507	\$251,893
Increase in paid-in capital			9,389,611	6,100,000
Total increase			9,724,118	6,400,000
Shares purchased (at an average discount from net asset value of 9.7% and 9.1%, respectively)	1,106,600	922,100	(1,106,600)	(922,100)
Decrease in paid-in capital			(27,348,356)	(22,300,000)
Total decrease			(28,454,956)	(23,200,000)
Net decrease			(\$18,730,838)	(\$16,800,000)

At December 31, 2003, the Company held in its treasury 1,442,300 shares of Common Stock with aggregate cost in the amount of \$28,752,939.

Distributions for tax and book purposes are substantially the same.

As of December 31, 2003, the components of distributable earnings on a tax basis were as follows:

Undistributed ordinary income	\$359,332
Undistributed long-term gains	2,876,071
Unrealized appreciation	413,648,035

	\$416,883,438
	=====

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

3. OFFICERS' COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT AND THRIFT PLANS

The aggregate compensation paid by the Company during 2003 and 2002 to its officers amounted to \$4,994,000 and \$4,419,000, respectively.

The Company has non-contributory retirement plans and a contributory thrift plan which cover substantially all employees. The costs to the Company and the assets and liabilities of the plans are not material. Costs of the plans are funded currently.

4. PURCHASES AND SALES OF SECURITIES

Purchases and sales of securities and securities sold short (other than short-term securities) during 2003 amounted to on long transactions \$205,428,471 and \$140,604,387, respectively, and on short sale transactions \$5,283,161 and \$12,815,368, respectively.

At December 31, 2003, the cost of investments for Federal income tax purposes was the same as the cost for financial reporting purposes.

5. RESTRICTED SECURITIES

	DATE ACQUIRED	COST	V (NO
Cytokinetics, Incorporated Series E Preferred	3/21/03	\$2,000,000	\$2,0
Silicon Genesis Corporation	2/16/01	3,006,720	
Standard MEMS, Inc. Series A Convertible Preferred	12/17/99	3,003,000	
Total		\$8,009,720	\$2,0

6. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENT

In July 1992, the Company entered into an operating lease agreement for office space which expires in 2007 and provides for future rental payments in the aggregate amount of approximately \$5.6 million. The lease agreement contains a clause whereby the Company received twenty months of free rent beginning in December 1992 and escalation clauses relating to operating costs and real property taxes.

Rental expense approximated \$304,600 for 2003. Minimum rental commitments under the operating lease are approximately \$505,000 per annum in 2004 through 2007.

In January 2003, the Company extended a sublease agreement (originally entered into in March 1996) which expires in 2007 and provides for future rental receipts. Minimum rental receipts under the sublease are approximately \$254,000 per annum in 2004 through 2007. The Company will also receive its proportionate share of operating expenses and real property taxes under the sublease.

7. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

On January 14, 2004, the Board of Directors declared on the Common Stock a dividend of \$2,878,743 from net long-term capital gains and a dividend of \$385,811 from ordinary income. These dividends are payable in cash on February

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

9, 2004.

Unaudited

 In addition to purchases of the Company's Common Stock as set forth in Note 2 above, purchases of Common Stock may be made at such times, at such prices, in such amounts and in such manner as the Board of Directors may deem advisable.

17

14 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

 General American Investors

The following table shows per share operating performance data, total investment return, ratios and supplemental data for each year in the five-year period ended December 31, 2003. This information has been derived from information contained in the financial statements and market price data for the Company's shares.

	2003	2002	2001	2000
	-----	-----	-----	-----
PER SHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE				
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$26.48	\$35.14	\$39.91	\$44.00
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net investment income	.02	.17	.39	.50
Net gain (loss) on securities - realized and unrealized	7.72	(7.88)	(.66)	(1.00)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Distributions on Preferred Stock:				
Dividends from investment income	(.01)	(.12)	(.07) (a)	(.00)
Distributions from capital gains	(.35)	(.23)	(.29)	(.00)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(.36)	(.35)	(.36)	(.00)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total from investment operations	7.38	(8.06)	(.63)	(1.00)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Other comprehensive income	.01	.02	.02	.00
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Less distributions on Common Stock:				
Dividends from investment income	(.02)	(.21) (d)	(.88) (e)	(1.00)
Distributions from capital gains	(.52)	(.41)	(3.28)	(1.00)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(.54)	(.62)	(4.16)	(1.00)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Capital Stock transaction - effect of Preferred Stock offering	(.22)	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net asset value, end of year	\$33.11	\$26.48	\$35.14	\$44.00
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Per share market value, end of year	\$29.73	\$23.85	\$33.47	\$33.47
	=====	=====	=====	=====
TOTAL INVESTMENT RETURN - Stockholder				
Return, based on market price per share	27.01%	(27.21)%	4.33%	10.00%
RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA				
Net assets applicable to Common Stock, end of year (000's omitted)	\$986,335	\$809,192	\$1,097,530	\$1,155,000
Ratio of expenses to average net assets				

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

applicable to Common Stock	1.26%	0.97%	1.02%
Ratio of net income to average net assets			
applicable to Common Stock	0.10%	0.56%	1.10%
Portfolio turnover rate	18.62%	22.67%	23.81%

PREFERRED STOCK

Liquidation value, end of year (000's omitted)	\$200,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Asset coverage	593%	639%	832%	
Liquidation preference per share	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Market value per share	\$25.04	\$25.85	\$25.90	\$25.90

- (a) Includes short-term capital gain in the amount of \$.04 per share.
- (b) Includes short-term capital gain in the amount of \$.09 per share.
- (c) Includes short-term capital gain in the amount of \$.03 per share.
- (d) Includes short-term capital gain in the amount of \$.19 per share.
- (e) Includes short-term capital gain in the amount of \$.51 per share.
- (f) Includes short-term capital gain in the amount of \$1.82 per share.
- (g) Includes short-term capital gain in the amount of \$.29 per share.

18

15 REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

General American Investors

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STOCKHOLDERS OF GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS COMPANY, INC.

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the statements of investments and securities sold short, of General American Investors Company, Inc. as of December 31, 2003, and the related statements of operations and changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of December 31, 2003, by correspondence with the custodian and brokers. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of General American Investors Company, Inc. at December 31, 2003, the results of its operations and the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Ernst & Young LLP

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

New York, New York
January 14, 2004

OFFICERS

NAME (AGE) EMPLOYEE SINCE	POSITION WITH COMPANY SINCE	NAME (AGE) EMPLOYEE SINCE
Spencer Davidson (61) 1994	President and Chief Executive Officer 1995	Peter P. Donnelly (55) 1974
Andrew V. Vindigni (44) 1988	Vice-President 1995 security analyst (financial services industry)	Diane G. Radosti (51) 1980
Eugene L. DeStaebler, Jr. (65) 1975	Vice-President, Administration 1978 Principal Financial Officer 2002	Carole Anne Clementi (57) 1982

All officers serve for a term of one year and are elected by the Board of Directors at the time of its annual organization meeting on the second Wednesday in April. The address for each officer is the Company's office. Other directorships and affiliations for Mr. Davidson are shown in the listing of Directors on page 16.

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

COUNSEL

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Ernst & Young LLP

CUSTODIAN

State Street Bank and Trust Company

TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

Mellon Investor Services LLC
P.O. Box 3315
South Hackensack, NJ 07606-1915
1-800-413-5499
www.mellon-investor.com

19

16 DIRECTORS (UNAUDITED)

General American Investors

NAME (AGE) DIRECTOR SINCE	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION DURING PAST 5 YEARS	OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS
------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------

INDEPENDENT ("DISINTERESTED") DIRECTORS

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

Lawrence B. Bittenwieser (72) Chairman of the Board of Directors 1967	Counsel 2002-present Partner 1966-2002 Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman and predecessor firms (lawyers)	
Arthur G. Altschul, Jr. (39) 1995	Managing Member Diaz & Altschul Capital Management, LLC (investments and securities)	Delta Opportunity Fund, Medicis Pharmaceutical C Neurosciences Research F
Lewis B. Cullman (85) 1961	Managing Member Cullman Ventures LLC (formerly Cullman Ventures, Inc.)	Chess-in-the-Schools, Ch Metropolitan Museum of A Museum of Modern Art, Vi International Council Neurosciences Research F Board of Trustees The New York Botanical G Chairman, Board of Man
Gerald M. Edelman (74) 1976	Member and Chairman of the Department of Neurobiology The Scripps Research Institute	Neurosciences Institute Neurosciences Research Director and President
John D. Gordan, III (58) 1986	Partner Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP (lawyers)	
Sidney R. Knafel (73) 1994	Managing Partner SRK Management Company (private investment company)	BioReliance Corporation, IGENE Biotechnology, Inc Insight Communications C Chairman, Board of Dir
Richard R. Pivirotto (73) 1971	President Richard R. Pivirotto Co., Inc. (self-employed consultant)	General Theological Semi The Greenwich Bank and T Greenwich Hospital Corpo Immunomedics, Inc., Dire New York Life Insurance Princeton University, Ch
Joseph T. Stewart, Jr. (74) 1987	Corporate director and trustee Executive Consultant Johnson & Johnson (1990-1999)	Foundation of the Univer Medicine and Dentistry Marine Biological Labora Advisory Council United States Merchant M Board of Advisors
Raymond S. Troubh (77) 1989	Financial Consultant	Diamond Offshore Drillin Enron Corp., Chairman, B Gentiva Health Services, Petrie Stores Liquidatin Triarc Companies, Inc., WHX Corporation, Directo

INSIDE ("INTERESTED") DIRECTOR

Spencer Davidson (61) 1995	President and Chief Executive Officer General American Investors Company, Inc. since 1995	Medicis Pharmaceutical C Neurosciences Research F
-------------------------------	---	--

All Directors serve for a term of one year and are elected by stockholders at the time of the ann

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

Wednesday in April. The address for each Director is the Company's office.

William O. Baker, Director Emeritus
William T. Golden, Director Emeritus

20

General American Investors Company, Inc.
450 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017
(212) 916-8400 (800) 436-8401
E-mail:InvestorRelations@gainv.com
www.generalamericaninvestors.com

21

ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

On July 9, 2003, the Board of Directors adopted a code of ethics that applies to registrant's principal executive and senior financial officers. The code of ethics is available on registrant's Internet website at <http://www.generalamericaninvestors.com>. Since the code of ethics was adopted there have been no amendments to the code nor have there been granted any waivers from any provisions of the code of ethics.

ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

The board of directors has determined that none of the members of registrant's audit committee meets the definition of "audit committee financial expert" as the term has been defined by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"). In addition, the board of directors has determined that the members of the audit committee have sufficient expertise to perform the duties and responsibilities of the audit committee.

ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

(a) AUDIT FEES The aggregate fees paid and accrued by the registrant for professional services rendered by its independent auditors, Ernst & Young LLP, for the audit of the registrant's annual financial statements and the review of the registrant's semi-annual financial statements for 2003 and 2002 were \$64,500 and \$57,500, respectively.

(b) AUDIT RELATED FEES The aggregate fees paid or accrued by the registrant for audit-related professional services rendered by Ernst & Young LLP for 2003 and 2002 were \$49,400 and \$31,500, respectively. Such services and related fees for 2003 and 2002 included: review of registration statement related to preferred stock offering and provision of comfort letter and consent (\$21,150 in 2003), performance of agreed upon procedures relating to the preferred stock basic maintenance reports (\$12,750 and \$16,000, respectively), review of quarterly employee security transactions and issuance of report thereon (\$12,000 in each year) and other audit-related services (\$3,500 in each year).

(c) TAX FEES The aggregate fees paid or accrued by the registrant for professional services rendered by Ernst & Young LLP for the review of the registrant's federal, state and city income tax returns and excise tax calculations for 2003 and 2002 were \$12,000 and \$11,000, respectively.

(d) ALL OTHER FEES No such fees were billed to the registrant by Ernst & Young LLP for 2003 or 2002.

(e) (1) AUDIT COMMITTEE PRE-APPROVAL POLICY All services to be performed for the

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

registrant by Ernst & Young LLP must be pre-approved by the audit committee. All services performed during 2003 and 2002 were pre-approved by the committee.

(2) Not applicable.

(f) Not applicable.

(g) The aggregate fees paid or accrued by the registrant for non-audit professional services rendered by Ernst & Young LLP to the registrant for 2003 and 2002 were \$61,400 and \$42,500, respectively.

(h) Not applicable.

ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.

(a) The registrant has a separately-designated standing audit committee established in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The members of audit committee are: Sidney R. Knafel, chairman, Arthur G. Altschul, Jr., Lawrence B. Bittenwieser, Lewis B. Cullman and John D. Gordan, III.

(b) Not applicable.

ITEM 6. [RESERVED BY SEC FOR FUTURE USE.]

ITEM 7. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

General American Investors Company, Inc.

PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

General American Investors Company, Inc. (the "Company") is uniquely structured as an internally managed closed-end investment company. Our research efforts, including the receipt and analysis of proxy material, are focused on the securities in the Company's portfolio, as well as alternative investment opportunities. We vote proxies relating to our portfolio securities in the best long-term interests of the Company.

Our investment approach stresses fundamental security analysis, which includes an evaluation of the integrity, as well as the effectiveness of management personnel. In proxy material, we review management proposals and management recommendations relating to shareholder proposals in order to, among other things, gain assurance that management's positions are consistent with its integrity and the long-term interests of the company. We generally find this to be the case and, accordingly, give significant weight to the views of management when we vote proxies.

Proposals that may have an impact on the rights or privileges of the securities held by the Company would be reviewed very carefully. The explanation for a negative impact could justify the proposal; however, if such justification were not present, we would vote against a significant reduction in the rights or privileges associated with any of our holdings.

Proposals relating to corporate governance matters are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When they involve changes in the state of incorporation, mergers or other restructuring, we would, if necessary, complete our review of the rationale for the proposal by contacting company representatives and, with few exceptions, vote in favor of management's recommendations. Proposals relating to anti-takeover provisions, such as staggered boards, poison pills and supermajorities could be more problematic. They would be considered in light of

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

our assessment of the capability of current management, the duration of the proposal, the negative impact it might have on the attractiveness of the company to future "investors," among other factors. We can envision circumstances under which we would vote against an anti-takeover provision.

Generally, we would vote with management on proposals relating to changes to the company's capital structure, including increases and decreases of capital and issuances of preferred stock; however, we would review the facts and circumstances associated with each proposal before finalizing our decision.

Well-structured stock option plans and management compensation programs are essential for companies to attract and retain high caliber management personnel. We generally vote in favor of proposals relating to these issues; however, there could be an occasion on which we viewed such a proposal as over reaching on the part of management or having the potential for excessive dilution when we would vote against the proposal.

Corporations should act in a responsible manner toward their employees, the communities in which they are located, the customers they serve and the world at large. We have observed that most stockholder proposals relating to social issues focus on a narrow issue and the corporate position set forth in the proxy material provides a well-considered response demonstrating an appropriate and responsible action or position. Accordingly, we generally support management recommendations on these types of proposals; however, we would consider each proposal on a case-by-case basis.

We take voting proxies of securities held in our portfolio very seriously. As indicated above, it is an integral part of the analytical process at General American Investors. Each proposal and any competing interests are reviewed carefully on a case-by-case basis. Generally, we support and vote in accordance with the recommendations of management; however, the overriding basis for the votes we cast is the best long-term interests of the Company.

Date: July 9, 2003

ITEM 8. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS.

Form N-CSR disclosure requirement not yet effective with respect to registrant.

ITEM 9. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.

Form N-CSR disclosure requirement not yet effective with respect to registrant.

ITEM 10. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

Conclusions of principal officers concerning controls and procedures

(a) As of February 3, 2004, an evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of the officers of General American Investors Company, Inc. (the "Company"), including the principal executive officer ("PEO") and principal financial officer ("PFO"), of the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures. Based on that evaluation, the Company's officers, including the PEO and PFO, concluded that, as of February 3, 2004, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were reasonably designed so as to ensure that material information relating to the Company is made known to the PEO and PFO.

(b) There have been no significant changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the Investment

Edgar Filing: GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC - Form N-CSR

Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30a-3(d)) that occurred during the registrant's last fiscal half-year (the registrant's second fiscal half-year in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 11. EXHIBITS

- (a) (1) As indicated in Item 2., the code of ethics is posted on the registrant's Internet website.
- (2) The certifications of the principal executive officer and principal financial officer pursuant to Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 are attached hereto as Exhibit 99 CERT.
- (b) The certifications of the principal executive officer and principal financial officer pursuant to Rule 30a-2(b) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 are attached hereto as Exhibit 99.906 CERT.

22

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

General American Investors Company, Inc.

By: /s/Eugene L. DeStaebler, Jr.
Eugene L. DeStaebler, Jr.
Vice-President, Administration

Date: February 5, 2004

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By: /s/Spencer Davidson
Spencer Davidson
President and Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: February 5, 2004

By: /s/Eugene L. DeStaebler, Jr.
Eugene L. DeStaebler, Jr.
Vice-President, Administration
(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: February 5, 2004