GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC
Form N-30D
February 01, 2002

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.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2001
-------

$$
\begin{array}{r}
\$ 1,247,529,720 \\
150,000,000 \\
1,097,529,720 \\
12,512,405 \\
70,720,822 \\
(87,697,439)
\end{array}
$$

2000

```
Net assets-December 31
    Preferred Stock liquidation preference
    Common Stock
Net investment income
Net realized gain
Net decrease in unrealized appreciation
Per Common Share-December 31
Market price range* (high-low)
Market volume-shares
```

    Net asset value \$35.14 \$39.91
    \(\begin{array}{ll}\text { Market price } & 33.47 \\ \$ 36.00\end{array}\)
    Discount from net asset value -4.8\% -9.8\%
Common Shares outstanding-Dec. 31 28,940,544
Common stockholders of record-Dec. 31 4,900 5,182

DIVIDEND Summary (per share)

| Record Date | Payment Date | Ordinary <br> Income | Long-Term Capital Gain | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Common Stock |  |  |  |  |
| Nov. 15, 2001 | Dec. 20, 2001 | \$0.82 (a) | \$1.26 | \$2.08 |
| Jan. 28, 2002 | Feb. 11, 2002 | . 19 (b) | . 11 | . 30 |
| Total from | ings | \$1.01 | \$1.37 | \$2.38 |

(a) Includes short-term gain in the amount of $\$ .45$ per share.
(b) Represents short-term gain.

| Nov. 13 | 2000 | Dec. | 2000 | \$1.97 (c) | \$4.14 | \$ 6.11 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jan. 29 | 2001 | Mar. | 2001 | . 06 (d) | 2.02 | 2.08 |
| Total | from | ngs |  | \$2. 03 | \$6.16 | \$8.19 |

(c) Includes short-term gain in the amount of $\$ 1.49$ per share.
(d) Represents short-term gain.

Preferred Stock
Mar. 6, 2001 Mar. 23, 2001 \$.0963 \$ .3537 \$ . 45

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| Jun. 6, 2001 | Jun. 25, 2001 | . 0963 | . 3537 | . 45 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sep. 6, 2001 | Sep. 24, 2001 | . 0963 | . 3537 | . 45 |
| Dec. 6, 2001 | Dec. 24, 2001 | . 0963 | . 3537 | . 45 |
| Total for 2001 |  | \$.3852 (e) | \$1.4148 | \$1.80 |

(e) Includes short-term gain in the amount of $\$ .2224$ per share ( $\$ .0556$ per quarter).

| Mar. 6, 2000 | Mar. 23, 2000 | \$. 1281 | \$ . 3219 | \$ . 45 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jun. 6, 2000 | Jun. 23, 2000 | . 1281 | . 3219 | . 45 |
| Sep. 6, 2000 | Sep. 25, 2000 | . 1281 | . 3219 | . 45 |
| Dec. 6, 2000 | Dec. 26, 2000 | . 1281 | . 3219 | . 45 |
| Total for 2000 |  | \$.5124 (f) | 1.2876 | \$1.80 |

(f) Includes short-term gain in the amount of $\$ .4056$ per share ( $\$ .1014$ per quarter).

```
General American Investors Company, Inc.
4 5 0 \text { Lexington Avenue, New York, NY } 1 0 0 1 7
                    (212) 916-8400 (800) 436-8401
    E-mail: InvestorRelations@gainv.com
```


## 1 TO THE STOCKHOLDERS

General American Investors

The year just ended marked General American Investors' 75th Anniversary as a closed-end investment company. It will be remembered most for the tragic events of September 11th. It was also the first time since 1973-74 that our benchmark, the Standard \& Poor's 500 Stock Index (including income), posted back-to-back negative returns, losing 11.9\%. By contrast, the return to our common stockholders (assuming reinvestment of all dividends) was 4.3\%, resulting from a decline in net asset value per share of $1.20 \%$ together with significant shrinkage in the discount at which our shares trade. We are encouraged by our performance, especially when viewed in the context of the extraordinary results of recent years.

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 | $20.0 \%$ | $-1.0 \%$ |
| 5 | 26.5 | 10.7 |
| 10 | 15.4 | 12.9 |
| 20 | 16.6 | 15.2 |
| 30 | 15.9 | 12.3 |
| 40 | 13.7 | 10.9 |

Long-term capital gain distributions for 2001 will total $\$ 1.37$ per share, including $\$ .11$ per share that will be distributed in February 2002. Because of tax requirements unique to our industry, gains realized in November and December are paid in the following calendar year. Total dividends attributable to 2001, including net income and short-term capital gains, amounted to $\$ 2.38$ per share, or $6.8 \%$ of ending net asset value ("NAV"). This percentage has averaged 10.9\% over the past 20 years.

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During 2001, 19,000 common shares of General American were purchased in the open market at an average discount to NAV of $9 \%$. The Board of Directors has authorized repurchases of common shares when they are trading at a discount in excess of $8 \%$ of NAV.

The economy appears to be stabilizing amid nascent signs of recovery. In the past, aggressive Federal Reserve Board action has succeeded in ending recessions. In 2001, the Fed reduced interest rates eleven times, to $1.75 \%$, the lowest level in forty years. As a result, the real rate (the nominal rate less inflation) is presently below zero. Together with current deficit spending, these actions should ensure future economic growth. The recovery is likely to be sluggish, however, and gains in corporate profits may well be modest. Importantly, there would seem to be little pent-up demand for consumer durables like cars and houses, two traditional well-springs of a cyclical rebound. It may take some time, furthermore, to purge the structural excesses of the last boom when both business and consumer spending rose to levels well above their respective rates of savings. While the number of newly unemployed workers may be receding, the unemployment rate could rise for some time. This would weigh on consumer confidence and spending.

In consequence, corporate profits face a number of headwinds and a return to vigorous growth may prove challenging. The relative strength of the dollar continues to impact export demand while adversely affecting the competitive position of U. S. manufacturers at home. With little inflation, more than adequate capacity and balance sheets already stretched, improving profit margins will not be accomplished easily. Markets, however, now reflect more fully subdued expectations for growth and profits. While a return to the environment that produced the out-sized gains of the five years ended in 1999 seems improbable, we are less guarded with respect to the market outlook than we have been in recent reports.

We have commenced work on the development of a website for General American. It will include corporate information, current NAV and market price data, historical reports, dividend payments, press releases and a means by which you can contact us and our transfer agent. Look for us on "the Web" at www.generalamericaninvestors.com toward the end of the first quarter.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Spencer Davidson
President and Chief Executive Officer
January 16, 2002

## 2 THE COMPANY

General American Investors

Corporate Overview and 75 th Year

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.

As we celebrate our 75 th year, we look back with pride on a record characterized by continuity of management and consistency of purpose with attendant superior

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returns. Over the last 75 years, the total return (exclusive of operating expenses) indicated for the Company is $13.1 \%$ compounded annually. In comparison, the total return for the Standard \& Poor's 500 Stock Index (including income) is 10.6\% per year.

During our first 21 years, Frank Altschul served as President and portfolio manager. He then served as Chairman followed by his son, Arthur G. Altschul (1961-1995), and by our current Chairman, Lawrence B. Buttenwieser. During this 75 -year period, only 6 individuals served as President and portfolio manager; these titles are currently held by Spencer Davidson (since 1995).

## Investment <br> 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 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.

## 3 THE COMPANY

General American Investors

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 2001, the stock sold at premiums over and discounts from net asset value which ranged from a premium of $1.8 \%$ (July 6) to a discount of 8.5\% (September 21). At December 31, the price of the stock was at a discount of $4.8 \%$ as

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compared with a discount of 9.8\% a year earlier.
"GAM Pr" Preferred Stock

On June 19, 1998, the Company issued and sold in an underwritten offering $6,000,000$ shares of its $7.20 \%$ Tax-Advantaged Cumulative Preferred Stock with a liquidation preference of $\$ 25$ per share ( $\$ 150,000,000$ 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).

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 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 1943-2001 (except for the year 1974). (A table listing dividends paid during the 20 -year period $1982-2001$ is shown at the bottom of page 6.) To the extent that full 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.

## 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.

## 4 INVESTMENT RESULTS

General American Investors

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Total return on $\$ 10,000$ investment 20 years ended December 31, 2001

The investment return for a common stockholder of General American Investors (GAM) over the 20 years ended December 31,2001 is shown in the table below and in the accompa ny ing 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 1982 .

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 | ANNUAL |  | CUMULATIVE | ANNUAL |  | CUMULATIVE | ANNUAL |
|  | INVESTMENT | RETURN |  | INVESTMENT | RETURN |  | INVESTMENT | RETURN |
| 1982 | \$ 11,929 | 19.29 | \% | \$ 11,842 | 18.42 | \% | \$12,155 | 21.55 |
| 1983 | 13,875 | 16.31 |  | 14,567 | 23.01 |  | 14,896 | 22.55 |
| 1984 | 12,881 | -7.16 |  | 13,534 | -7.09 |  | 15,831 | 6.28 |
| 1985 | 16,077 | 24.81 |  | 18,271 | 35.00 |  | 20,861 | 31.77 |
| 1986 | 17,873 | 11.17 |  | 20,312 | 11.17 |  | 24,760 | 18.69 |
| 1987 | 14,994 | -16.11 |  | 20,826 | 2.53 |  | 26,057 | 5.24 |
| 1988 | 18,181 | 21.26 |  | 24,485 | 17.57 |  | 30,365 | 16.53 |
| 1989 | 27,017 | 48.60 |  | 33,755 | 37.86 |  | 39,966 | 31.62 |
| 1990 | 28,098 | 4.00 |  | 36,013 | 6.69 |  | 38,731 | -3.09 |
| 1991 | 51,981 | 85.00 |  | 58,013 | 61.09 |  | 50,505 | 30.40 |
| 1992 | 59,664 | 14.78 |  | 60,073 | 3.55 |  | 54,339 | 7.59 |
| 1993 | 50,165 | -15.92 |  | 59,021 | -1.75 |  | 59,838 | 10.12 |
| 1994 | 46,222 | -7.86 |  | 57,404 | -2.74 |  | 60,598 | 1.27 |
| 1995 | 56,031 | 21.22 |  | 70,940 | 23.58 |  | 83,322 | 37.50 |
| 1996 | 66,946 | 19.48 |  | 85,107 | 19.97 |  | 102,411 | 22.91 |
| 1997 | 95,451 | 42.58 |  | 112,384 | 32.05 |  | 136,544 | 33.33 |
| 1998 | 125,337 | 31.31 |  | 151,875 | 35.14 |  | 175,528 | 28.55 |
| 1999 | 174,494 | 39.22 |  | 207,158 | 36.40 |  | 212,318 | 20.96 |
| 2000 | 207,822 | 19.10 |  | 243,701 | 17.64 |  | 193,019 | -9.09 |
| 2001 | 216,821 | 4.33 |  | 240,776 | -1.20 |  | 170,069 | -11.89 |

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General American Investors
[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 $\$ 250,000$ in $\$ 25,000$ increments. The horizontal axis, on the bottom of the page, consists of the years 1982 through 2001 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


6 MAJOR STOCK CHANGES*: THREE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001 (UNAUDITED)
General American Investors


```
    AMR Corporation
    Brooktrout, Inc.
REDUCTIONS
AmerUs Group Co. 
AmerUs Group Co.
    BioReliance Corporation
    The Boeing Company
    Cisco Systems, Inc.
    Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.
    Everest Re Group, Ltd.
    First Midwest Bancorp, Inc.
    The Home Depot, Inc.
    IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation
    John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.
    OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
    PartnerRe Ltd.
    PRI Automation, Inc.
    Transatlantic Holdings, Inc.
    Uniroyal Technology Corporation
```

        500,000
    225,000 -
$\begin{array}{rr}225,000 & - \\ 20,000 & 300,000\end{array}$
20,000
50,000 525,000
98,200 100,000
25,000 475,000
25,000 535,000
250,000 500,000
35,000 575,000
58,750 200,000
(c)
[CAPTION]

The following table shows aggregate dividends paid per share on the Company's Common Stock for each year during the 20-year period 1982-2001. Amounts shown include payments made after year-end attributable to income and gain in each respective year.

DIVIDENDS PER COMMON SHARE (1982-2001)

| YEAR | DIVIDEND FROM |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | LONG-TERM |
|  | INCOME\# | CAPITAL GAINS |
| 1982 | \$. 36 | \$1.15 |
| 1983 | . 67 | 2.38 |
| 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 |

## 7 TEN LARGEST INVESTMENT HOLDINGS (UNAUDITED)

General American Investors

## [CAPTION]

The statement of investments as of December 31, 2001, shown on pages 10 and 11 includes 59 stock issues. Listed here are the ten largest stock holdings on that date.

SHARES
VALUE

THE HOME DEPOT, INC.
$2,045,000$
$\$ 104,315,450$
The dominant company in home center retailing, Home Depot's
innovative merchandising, strong balance sheet and excellent
management has enabled the Company to continue to gain
share in a fragmented industry.

THE TJX COMPANIES, INC. $1,325,000$ 52,814,500
The leading off-price retailer, through divisions such as T.J. Maxx
and Marshalls, of apparel and home fashions in the U.S. and
worldwide. TJX has expanded through acquisitions and internal
growth, has achieved financial strength and is positioned for
sustainable growth.

EVEREST RE GROUP, LTD.
575,000 $40,652,500$
The largest independent U.S. property/casualty reinsurer which generates annual premiums of $\$ 1.5$ 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 growth.

IDEC PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION
520,000
35, 843, 600
A biopharmaceutical company which is committed to develop-
ing and commercializing effective treatments of selected cancers
and autoimmune diseases. With proven products such as
Rituxan and a broad pipeline of product opportunities, IDEC is positioned for continued success.

PFIZER INC.
890,000
$35,466,500$
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.
The recent launch of several new products serving large markets
and development of a pipeline rich with many promising drug
candidates position Pfizer for strong long-term growth.

WAL-MART STORES, INC.
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
525,000
$30,896,250$
A savings and loan holding company with $\$ 59$ 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.

## COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION

675,000
$29,956,500$
A growing chain of membership warehouses, located principally in the U.S., that sell high quality merchandise at competitive prices. Earnings are generated from high sales volume, low operating costs and rapid inventory turnover.

PARTNERRE LTD.
550,000
29,700,000
A leading global Bermuda-based multi-line reinsurer that generates annual premiums of $\$ 1.7$ billion and has a well-capitalized and conservatively reserved AA balance sheet. PartnerRe has a deep and talented staff and is well positioned to benefit from the strong industry pricing cycle.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY
$1,700,500$
$26,731,860$
A global manufacturer of automobiles, trucks and related parts.
The company provides financial services through its Ford Motor
Credit subsidiary and owns $81 \%$ of Hertz, the top car rental firm
in the U.S.

8 STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
General American Investors

DECEMBER 31,


ASSETS


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```
Receivable for securities sold
Receivable from broker for proceeds on securities sold
short
Dividends, interest and other receivables
Prepaid Expenses
Other
\begin{tabular}{rr}
\(2,827,707\) & 434,7 \\
\(23,334,454\) & \(67,808,1\) \\
\(1,261,862\) & 2,754, \\
\(5,804,035\) & \(5,078,2\) \\
513,446 & 557,4 \\
\hline \(1,275,157,163\) & \(1,370,464,3\) \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
TOTAL ASSETS
--------------
LIABILITIES
    Payable for securities purchased 1,318,500 1, 3,921,
    Preferred dividend accrued but not yet declared
    240,000
    240,
    Securities sold short, at value (proceeds $23,334,454
        and $67,808,111, respectively) (note 1a) 15,758,350
    Accrued expenses and other liabilities
10,310,593
TOTAL LIABILITIES
27,627,443
50,811,
10,451,
    65,424,
NET ASSETS
$1,247,529,720
    $1,305,039,
===============
    ===========
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO PREFERRED STOCK AT A LIQUIDATION VALUE
    OF $25 PER SHARE
    $150,000,000
    $150,000,0
    $150,000,000
    =============
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK
$1,097,529,720
    $1,155,039,
NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE $35.14
$39.
NET ASSETS
7.20\% Tax-Advantaged Cumulative Preferred Stock, \$1 par value (note 2) Authorized 10,000,000 shares; outstanding 6,000,000 shares \(\$ 6,000,000\)
Common Stock, \$1 par value (note 2) Authorized 50,000,000 shares; outstanding 31,231,563 and 28,940,544 shares, respectively (exclusive of 9,400 shares held in Treasury in 2000)
Additional paid-in capital ( note 2)
31,231,563
28,940,
Undistributed realized gain on securities sold (note 2)
Undistributed net income and distributions in excess of net income, respectively (note 2)
52,737 45,307,
(240,000)
Unallocated distributions on Preferred Stock
723,414,981
9,598,439
60,229,
Unrealized appreciation on investments
(including aggregate gross unrealized appreciation of \(\$ 520,141,071\) and \(\$ 604,311,705\), respectively)
\(477,472,000\)
(367, 3
(240,0
\$1,247,529,720
565,169,
TOTAL NET ASSETS
\$1,305,039,
=============

9 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

General American Investors

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER
```

    Dividends (net of foreign withholding taxes
        of $55,790 and $71,050, respectively)
    Interest 15,201,651
Other Income
TOTAL INCOME
\$7,862,551 \$7,646,
541,123
17,819,
431,
23,605,325
25,897,
23,605,325
EXPENSES

```
    Investment research
```

    Investment research
    7,145,088
    7,145,088
    8,031,
    8,031,
    Administration and operations
    Administration and operations
    Office space and general
    Office space and general
    Transfer agent, custodian and registrar fees and expenses
    Transfer agent, custodian and registrar fees and expenses
    Directors' fees and expenses
    Directors' fees and expenses
    Stockholders' meeting and reports
    Stockholders' meeting and reports
    Auditing and legal fees
    Auditing and legal fees
    Miscellaneous taxes 83,931
Miscellaneous taxes 83,931
TOTAL EXPENSES
TOTAL EXPENSES
NET INVESTMENT INCOME
NET INVESTMENT INCOME
8,031,
8,031,
2,656,023
2,656,023
2,710,
2,710,
534,127
534,127
224,807
224,807
167,907
167,907
128,337
128,337
152,700
152,700
Miscellaneous taxes 83,931
Miscellaneous taxes 83,931
550,
550,
250,
250,
187,
187,
146,
146,
----------
----------
11,092,920
11,092,920
12,092,
12,092,
----------
----------
12,512,405
12,512,405
13,805,
13,805,
REALIZED GAIN AND CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION ON INVESTMENTS (NOTES 1d AND 4)
Net realized gain on investments:
Long transactions 52,639,769
Short sale transactions (note 1b)
18,081,053
4,060,
Net realized gain on investments (long-term, except for
$\$ 15,679,190$ and $\$ 43,284,041$, respectively)
70,720,822
217, 372,
Net decrease in unrealized appreciation
$(87,697,439)$
(45, 048 ,
-----------
NET GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS
$(16,976,617)$
172,324,
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS
(\$4, 464, 212)
(\$4,464, 212)
\$186,129,
$=========$

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

## YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, <br> 2001200

## OPERATIONS



## DISTRIBUTIONS TO PREFERRED STOCKHOLDERS

```
    From net income, including short-term capital gain
    From long-term capital gain
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM PREFERRED DISTRIBUTIONS
DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS
From net income, including short-term capital gain
(26,369,696)
(60,132,2
    From long-term capital gain
(96,274,382)
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM COMMON DISTRIBUTIONS
```

$(2,311,200)$
$(8,488,800)$
---------
$(10,800,000)$
-----------
$(3,074,40$ $(7,725,60$

## DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS

```
\begin{tabular}{lr} 
From net income, including short-term capital gain & \((26,369,696)\) \\
From long-term capital gain & \((96,274,382)\) \\
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM COMMON DISTRIBUTIONS & \((151,138,65\) \\
\end{tabular}
CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS
```


(CoST $\$ 9,681,525)$

COMPUTER SOFTWARE 484,500 Oberthur Card Systems S.A. (a)
AND SYSTEMS (0.9\%) 230,000 Viewpoint Corporation (a)

339,500 Wind River Systems, Inc. (a)

(CosT $\$ 15,966,968)$

| CONSUMER PRODUCTS | 500,000 Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. |
| :--- | ---: |
| AND SERVICES (4.8\%) | 275,000 Ethan Allen Interiors, Inc. |
|  | $1,700,500$ Ford Motor Company |
|  | 150,000 Newell Rubbermaid Inc. |
|  | 175,000 PepsiCo, Inc. |

(COST \$53,064,273)

| ELECTRONICS (1.5\%) | 692,500 Molex Incorporated Class A | $(\operatorname{COST}$ \$14,877,393) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |


| ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (INCLUDING SERVICES) (0.7\%) | 280,000 Waste Management, Inc. (Cost \$3,690,021) |
| :---: | :---: |
| FINANCE AND INSURANCE (23.4\%) | ```195,000 American International Group, Inc. 300,000 AmerUs Group Co. 525,000 Annaly Mortgage Management, Inc. 560,000 Annuity and Life Re (Holdings), Ltd. 3 1 5 \text { Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Class A (a)} 78,912 Central Securities Corporation 575,000 Everest Re Group, Ltd. 200,000 First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. 525,000 Golden West Financial Corporation 440,000 John Hancock Financial Services, Inc. 360,000 M&T Bank Corporation 300,000 MetLife, Inc. 550,000 PartnerRe Ltd. 600,000 Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated 260,000 SunTrust Banks, Inc. 225,000 Transatlantic Holdings, Inc.``` |

(COST \$113,945,775)

HEALTH CARE (14.0\%) PHARMACEUTICALS (11.9\%)

```
220,000 Alkermes, Inc. (a)
425,000 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
270,000 Genaera Corporation (a)
325,000 Genentech, Inc. (a)
520,000 IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation (a)
155,000 Johnson & Johnson
264,000 MedImmune, Inc. (a)
120,000 Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)
150,000 OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)
890,000 Pfizer Inc.
```

(CosT $\$ 66,166,567$ )

MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS AND DEVICES (1.2\%)

```
HEALTH CARE SERVICES (0.9%)
    100,000 BioReliance Corporation (a)
    400,000 Health Net, Inc. (a)
```

(COST \$7,734,076)
(COST \$74,763,257)
11 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS:DECEMBER 31, 2001 - continued
General American Investors

## COMMON STOCKS (Continued)

## SHARES

(Cost $\$ 56,000,845)$

OIL AND NATURAL GAS
(INCLUDING SERVICES)
(0.8\%) 700,000 Repsol, S.A.-ADR (COST \$8,236,884)

RETAIL TRADE (17.7\%) 675,000 Costco Wholesale Corporation (a)
2,045,000 The Home Depot, Inc. (b)
1,325,000 The TJX Companies, Inc.
570,000 Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
(COST \$49,514,414)

```
SEMICONDUCTORS (2.5%) 213,500 AXT, Inc.(a)
    275,000 Brooks Automation, Inc. (a)
    197,000 EMCORE Corporation (a)
    2,646,000 IQE plc (a)
    120,000 PRI Automation, Inc. (a)
    250,000 Uniroyal Technology Corporation (a)
    380,000 Zarlink Semiconductor Inc. (a)
```

    (CoST \$40,148,272)
    | SPECIAL HOLDINGS | (d) Sequoia Capital IV |
| :--- | ---: |
| (a) (c) | 432,000 Silicon Genesis Corporation Series C Preferred |
| (NOTE 5) (0.3\%) | 546,000 Standard MEMS, Inc. Series A Convertible Preferred |

(CosT \$6,896,127)

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SHORT-TERM SECURITIES AND OTHER ASSETS

## PRINCIPAL AMOUNT

```
$75,900,000 American Express Credit Corporation notes due 1/7-1/17/02; 1.78%-2.04%
    63,900,000 Ford Motor Credit Company notes due 1/3-2/7/02; 2.54%-2.95%
    75,600,000 General Electric Capital Corp. notes due 1/8-1/29/02; 1.75%-1.93%
    66,400,000 General Motors Acceptance Corp. notes due 1/2-2/4/02; 2.40%-2.93%
    29,500,000 Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. notes due 1/22-1/31/02; 2.25%-2.90%
                            (COST $310,348,410)
        Cash, receivables and other assets, less liabilities
TOTAL SHORT-TERM SECURITIES AND OTHER ASSETS, NET (25.4%) (COST $316,503,402)
NET ASSETS
    (COST $777,633,824)
```

    STATEMENT OF SECURITIES SOLD SHORT:DECEMBER 31, 2001
    General American Investors
    COMMON STOCKS
    SHARES
    | 338,000 | Molex Incorporated |
| :--- | :--- |
| 175,000 | Southwest Bancorporation of Texas, Inc. |

TOTAL SECURITIES SOLD SHORT
(PROCEEDS \$23,334,454)

## 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 generally accepted accounting principles 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.

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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 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 issuerunrestricted shares (to which a 30 percent discount is applied); for limited partnership interests, fair value is based upon an evaluation of the partnership's net assets.
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 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 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.

## 2. CAPITAL STOCK AND DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTIONS

On June 19, 1998, the Company issued and sold 6,000,000 shares of its $7.20 \%$ Tax-Advantaged Cumulative Preferred Stock. The stock has a liquidation preference of $\$ 25.00$ per share plus an amount equal to accumulated and unpaid dividends to the date of redemption.

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.

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

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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 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.

Transactions in Common Stock during 2001 and 2000 were as follows:


13 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

General American Investors
2. CAPITAL STOCK AND DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTIONS (Continued from bottom of previous page)

Distributions in excess of net income for financial statement purposes result primarily from transactions where tax treatment differs from book treatment.

As of December 31, 2001, the components of distributable earnings on a tax basis were as follows:

| Undistributed ordinary income | $\$ 5,926,412$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Undistributed long-term gain | $3,342,802$ |
| Unrealized appreciation | $477,472,000$ |
|  | --------- |
|  | $\$ 486,741,214$ |
|  | $============$ |

3. OFFICERS' COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT AND THRIFT PLANS

The aggregate compensation paid by the Company during 2001 and 2000 to its officers amounted to $\$ 5,334,000$ and $\$ 5,254,000$, 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

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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 2001 were as follows:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline & PURCHASES & SALES \\
\hline Long transactions & \$217,712,654 & \$266,598,113 \\
\hline Short sale transactions & 28,442,689 & 2,050,085 \\
\hline Total & \$246,155,343 & \$268,648,198 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
December 31, 2001, 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 |
| Sequoia Capital IV* | 1/31/84 | \$886,407 |
| Silicon Genesis Corporation Series C Preferred | 2/16/01 | 3,006,720 |
| Standard MEMS, Inc. Series A Convertible Preferred | 12/17/99 | 3,003,000 |
| Total |  | \$6,896,127 |

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 $\$ 322,000$ for 2001 . Minimum rental commitments under the operating lease are approximately $\$ 403,000$ in 2002 and $\$ 504,000$ per annum in 2003 through 2007 .

In March 1996, the Company entered into a sublease agreement which expires in 2003 and provides for future rental receipts. Minimum rental receipts under the sublease are approximately $\$ 203,000$ in 2002 and $\$ 64,000$ in 2003 . The Company will also receive its proportionate share of operating expenses and real property taxes under the sublease.

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On January 16, 2002, the Board of Directors declared on the Common Stock a dividend of $\$ 9,369,469$ from realized gains, including $\$ 3,435,472$ from long-term capital gains and the balance from short-term gains (ordinary income). This dividend is payable in cash on February 11, 2002.

Unaudited

In addition to purchases of the Company's Common Stock as set forth in Note 2 on page 12, 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.

## 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, 2001. This information has been derived from information contained in the financial statements and market price data for the Company's shares.

Net asset value, end of year

## 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, 2001, 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 state ments 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, 2001, 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

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above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of General American Investors Company, Inc. at December 31, 2001, 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
New York, New York
January 15, 2002

OFFICERS

| Name (age) <br> Employee Since | Position with Company Since | Name (age) <br> Employee Since | Position with Since |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Spencer Davidson (59) 1994 | President and Chief Executive Officer 1995 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Peter P. Donnelly (53) } \\ & 1974 \end{aligned}$ | Vice-Presiden securities |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Andrew V. Vindigni (42) } \\ & 1988 \end{aligned}$ | Vice-President 1995 <br> security analyst <br> (financial services <br> industry) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Diane G. Radosti (49) } \\ & 1980 \end{aligned}$ | Treasurer 199 corporate a and financi |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Eugene L. DeStaebler, Jr. (63) } \\ & 1975 \end{aligned}$ | ```Vice-President, Administration 1978 operations and finance``` | Carole Anne Clementi (55) 1982 | Secretary 199 shareholder and office |

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 COMPANIES
COUNSEL
Sullivan \& Cromwell

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
Ernst \& Young LLP

CUSTODIAN
Bankers 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

## 16 DIRECTORS

General American Investors


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[^0]:    7. SUBSEQUENT EVENT
