



## 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 (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
<b>Common Stock</b>				
Nov. 14, 2003	Dec. 23, 2003	\$.00761	\$.49239	\$.50
Jan. 26, 2004	Feb. 9, 2004	.013	.097	.11
<i>Total from 2003 earnings</i>		<u>\$.02061</u>	<u>\$.58939</u>	<u>\$.61</u>
Nov. 14, 2002	Dec. 23, 2002	\$.022	\$.298	\$.32
Jan. 27, 2003	Feb. 10, 2003	.01	.03	.04
<i>Total from 2002 earnings</i>		<u>\$.032</u>	<u>\$.328</u>	<u>\$.36</u>
<b>Preferred Stock</b>				
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
<i>Total for 2003</i>		<u>\$.056822</u>	<u>\$1.665053</u>	<u>\$1.721875</u>
Mar. 6, 2002	Mar. 25, 2002	\$.15525	\$.29475	\$.45
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
<i>Total for 2002</i>		<u>\$.621</u>	<u>\$1.179</u>	<u>\$1.80</u>

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.

<i>Years</i>	<i>Stockholder Return</i>	<i>S&amp;P 500</i>
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 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](http://www.generalamericaninvestors.com).

By Order of the Board of Directors,  
 Spencer Davidson  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*  
 January 14, 2004

### 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 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).

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 1943-2003 (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](http://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.

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

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 stockholder 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.

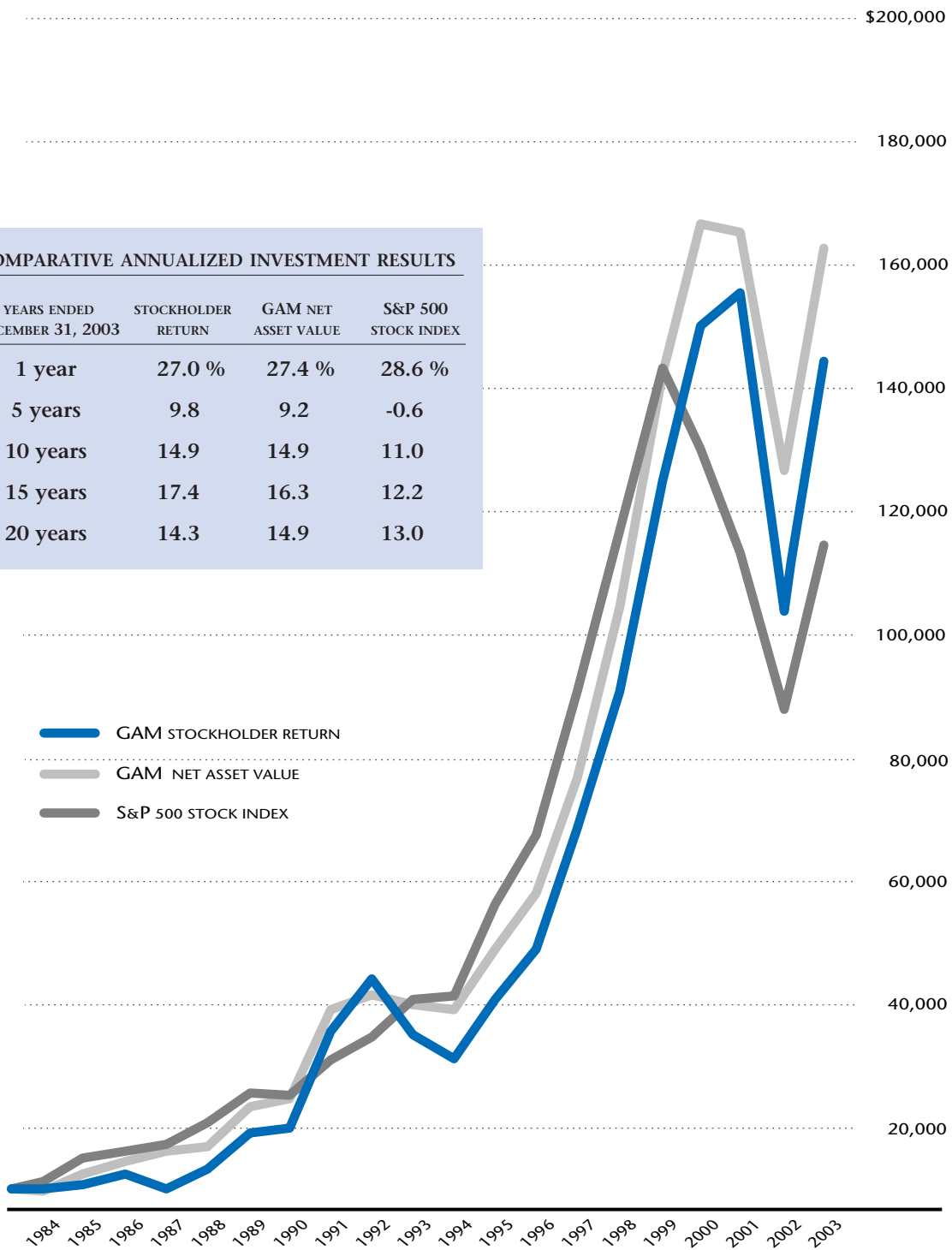
The results illustrated are a record of past performance and may not be indicative of future results.

	GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS				STANDARD & POOR'S 500	
	STOCKHOLDER RETURN		NET ASSET VALUE RETURN		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

**20-YEAR INVESTMENT RESULTS  
ASSUMING AN INITIAL  
INVESTMENT OF \$10,000**

**CUMULATIVE VALUE  
OF INVESTMENT**

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



		SHARES	SHARES HELD DECEMBER 31, 2003
<b>INCREASES</b>			
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
<b>DECREASES</b>			
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		YEAR	DIVIDEND FROM	
	INCOME <sup>#</sup>	LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS		INCOME <sup>#</sup>	LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS
1984	\$.28	\$1.35	1994	\$.06	\$1.59
1985	.47	1.07	1995	.13	2.77
1986	.36	2.15	1996	.25	2.71
1987	.35	1.54	1997	.21	2.95
1988	.29	1.69	1998	.47	4.40
1989	.23	1.56	1999	1.04	4.05
1990	.21	1.65	2000	2.03	6.16
1991	.09	3.07	2001	1.01	1.37
1992	.03	2.93	2002	.03	.33
1993	.06	2.34	2003	.02	.59

<sup>#</sup>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.

## 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	% COMMON NET ASSETS*
<b>THE HOME DEPOT, INC.</b> 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	6.9%
<b>THE TJX COMPANIES, INC.</b> 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	5.6
<b>EVEREST RE GROUP, LTD.</b> 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	5.6
<b>PFIZER INC</b> 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	4.7
<b>DEVON ENERGY CORPORATION</b> 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	3.8
<b>WAL-MART STORES, INC.</b> 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.	675,000	35,808,750	3.6
<b>GOLDEN WEST FINANCIAL CORPORATION</b> 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.	335,000	34,568,650	3.5
<b>M &amp; T BANK CORPORATION</b> 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.	310,000	30,473,000	3.1
<b>REPUBLIC SERVICES, INC.</b> 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.	1,175,000	30,115,250	3.1
<b>GENENTECH, INC.</b> 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.	315,000	29,474,550	3.0
		<u>\$422,727,250</u>	<u>42.9%</u>

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



## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

General American Investors

ASSETS	DECEMBER 31,	
	2003	2002
INVESTMENTS, AT VALUE (NOTE 1a)		
Common stocks (cost \$512,775,431 and \$417,614,713, respectively)	\$927,510,131	\$629,812,240
Convertible corporate notes (cost \$9,714,002 and \$11,464,420, respectively)	10,250,000	11,450,000
Corporate discount notes (cost \$149,931,413 and \$222,859,450, respectively)	149,931,413	222,859,450
U.S. Treasury bills (cost \$99,546,882 and \$98,645,315, respectively)	99,546,882	98,645,315
Total investments (cost \$771,967,728 and \$750,583,898, respectively)	1,187,238,426	962,767,005
CASH, RECEIVABLES AND OTHER ASSETS		
Cash (including margin account balance of \$3,455 for 2002)	54,695	68,413
Receivable for securities sold	2,731,429	1,394,958
Deposit with broker for securities sold short	13,684,582	5,710,669
Dividends, interest and other receivables	2,093,543	1,534,495
Prepaid expenses	6,979,584	6,474,097
Other	321,045	455,687
TOTAL ASSETS	1,213,103,304	978,405,324
LIABILITIES		
Payable for securities purchased	1,480,264	5,905,815
Preferred dividend accrued but not yet declared	231,389	240,000
Securities sold short, at value (proceeds \$13,684,582 and \$5,710,669, respectively) (note 1a)	15,307,245	4,715,171
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	9,749,295	8,352,211
TOTAL LIABILITIES	26,768,193	19,213,197
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	150,000,000
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK - 29,789,263 and 30,561,356 shares, respectively (note 2)	\$986,335,111	\$809,192,127
NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE	\$33.11	\$26.48
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	\$30,561,356
Additional paid-in capital (note 2)	538,866,532	563,709,764
Undistributed realized gain on investments (note 2)	2,951,398	1,089,200
Undistributed net income (note 2)	1,311,272	893,202
Unallocated distributions on Preferred Stock	(231,389)	(240,000)
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	213,178,605
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK	\$986,335,111	\$809,192,127

(see notes to financial statements)

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

General American Investors

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,	
	2003	2002
<b>INCOME</b>		
Dividends (net of foreign withholding taxes of \$21,770 in 2002)	\$7,810,852	\$8,131,252
Interest	4,168,048	6,259,873
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>11,978,900</b>	<b>14,391,125</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
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
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>11,123,349</b>	<b>9,152,493</b>
<b>NET INVESTMENT INCOME</b>	<b>855,551</b>	<b>5,238,632</b>
<b>REALIZED GAIN AND CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION ON INVESTMENTS (NOTES 1e AND 4)</b>		
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)
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>228,613,940</b>	<b>(247,254,352)</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTIONS TO PREFERRED STOCKHOLDERS</b>	<b>(11,075,000)</b>	<b>(10,800,000)</b>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>218,394,491</b>	<b>(252,815,720)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (NOTE 1d)</b>	<b>283,689</b>	<b>459,565</b>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$218,678,180</b>	<b>(\$252,356,155)</b>

STATEMENT  
OF CHANGES  
IN NET ASSETS

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,	
	2003	2002
<b>OPERATIONS</b>		
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)
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>218,394,491</b>	<b>(252,815,720)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>	<b>283,689</b>	<b>459,565</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS</b>		
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)
<b>DECREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM COMMON DISTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>(16,104,358)</b>	<b>(19,146,449)</b>
<b>CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS</b>		
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)	—
<b>DECREASE IN NET ASSETS - CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS</b>	<b>(25,430,838)</b>	<b>(16,834,989)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>177,142,984</b>	<b>(288,337,593)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK</b>		
<b>BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>809,192,127</b>	<b>1,097,529,720</b>
<b>END OF YEAR (including undistributed net income of \$1,311,272 and \$893,202, respectively)</b>	<b>\$986,335,111</b>	<b>\$809,192,127</b>

(see notes to  
financial statements)

## COMMON STOCKS

	SHARES OR PRINCIPAL AMOUNT		VALUE (NOTE 1a)
BUILDING AND REAL ESTATE (1.2%)	463,500	CEMEX, S.A. de C.V.	(COST \$11,394,095) \$12,143,700
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SERVICES (5.6%)	550,000	CIENA Corporation (a)	3,608,000
	900,000	Cisco Systems, Inc. (a)	21,807,000
	620,000	Cox Communications, Inc. Class A (a)	21,359,000
	450,000	Juniper Networks, Inc. (a)	8,406,000
		(COST \$31,949,019)	55,180,000
COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND SYSTEMS (1.0%)	300,000	EMC Corporation (a)	3,876,000
	350,000	VeriSign, Inc. (a)	5,705,000
		(COST \$4,111,632)	9,581,000
CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES (2.8%)	275,000	Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.	6,014,250
	275,000	Ethan Allen Interiors Inc.	11,517,000
	125,000	Newell Rubbermaid Inc.	2,846,250
	150,000	PepsiCo, Inc.	6,993,000
		(COST \$17,111,384)	27,370,500
ELECTRONICS (2.1%)	692,500	Molex Incorporated Class A	(COST \$14,877,393) 20,297,175
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (INCLUDING SERVICES) (3.0%)	1,175,000	Republic Services, Inc.	(COST \$26,227,380) 30,115,250
FINANCE AND INSURANCE (31.5%)		<b>BANKING (9.5%)</b>	
	100,000	Bank of America Corporation	8,043,000
	150,000	FleetBoston Financial Corporation	6,547,500
	335,000	Golden West Financial Corporation	34,568,650
	310,000	M&T Bank Corporation	30,473,000
	205,000	SunTrust Banks, Inc.	14,657,500
		(COST \$21,970,548)	94,289,650
		<b>INSURANCE (19.7%)</b>	
	325,000	American International Group, Inc.	21,541,000
	1,000,000	Annuity and Life Re (Holdings), Ltd.	1,380,000
	300	Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Class A (a)	25,275,000
	650,000	Everest Re Group, Ltd.	54,990,000
	330,000	John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.	12,375,000
	435,000	MetLife, Inc.	14,646,450
	500,000	PartnerRe Ltd.	29,025,000
	425,000	Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated	16,426,250
	230,000	Transatlantic Holdings, Inc.	18,584,000
		(COST \$94,253,080)	194,242,700
		<b>OTHER (2.3%)</b>	
	825,000	Annaly Mortgage Management, Inc.	15,180,000
	90,184	Central Securities Corporation	1,883,944
	575,000	MFA Mortgage Investments, Inc.	5,606,250
		(COST \$17,830,051)	22,670,194
		(COST \$134,053,679)	311,202,544
HEALTH CARE (19.3%)		<b>PHARMACEUTICALS (14.8%)</b>	
	340,000	Alkermes, Inc. (a)	4,590,000
	900,000	Baxter International Inc.	27,468,000
	275,000	Biogen Idec Inc. (a)	10,092,500
	300,000	Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	8,580,000
	270,000	Genaera Corporation (a)	882,900
	315,000	Genentech, Inc. (a)	29,474,550
	375,000	Genta Incorporated (a)	3,911,250
	455,000	MedImmune, Inc. (a)	11,547,900
	120,000	Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)	2,238,000
	30,000	OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)	967,500
	1,325,000	Pfizer Inc	46,812,250
		(COST \$103,936,515)	146,564,850
		<b>MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS AND DEVICES (2.2%)</b>	
	450,000	Medtronic, Inc.	(COST \$10,483,716) 21,874,500
		<b>HEALTH CARE SERVICES (2.3%)</b>	
	695,000	Health Net, Inc. (a)	(COST \$15,334,735) 22,726,500
		(COST \$129,754,966)	191,165,850

## COMMON STOCKS (Continued)

SHARES OR PRINCIPAL AMOUNT		VALUE (NOTE 1a)
MISCELLANEOUS (0.7%)	Other	(COST \$5,672,944) \$6,577,461
OIL AND NATURAL GAS (INCLUDING SERVICES) (5.5%)	650,000 Devon Energy Corporation 650,000 Halliburton Company	37,219,000 16,900,000 (COST \$39,828,119) 54,119,000
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.	26,026,000 68,140,800 55,125,000 35,808,750 (COST \$68,036,225) 185,100,550
SEMICONDUCTORS (2.3%)	200,000 Applied Materials, Inc. (a) 250,000 ASM International N.V. (a) 491,500 Brooks Automation, Inc. (a) 197,000 EMCORE Corporation (a) 1,644,900 IQE plc (a)	4,488,000 5,060,000 11,668,210 927,870 477,021 (COST \$21,748,875) 22,621,101
SPECIAL HOLDINGS (a)(c) (NOTE 5) (0.2%)	400,000 Cytokinetics, Incorporated Series E Preferred 144,000 Silicon Genesis Corporation 546,000 Standard MEMS, Inc. Series A Convertible Preferred	2,000,000 36,000 — (COST \$8,009,720) 2,036,000(d)
TOTAL COMMON STOCKS (94.0%)		(COST \$512,775,431) 927,510,131

## CONVERTIBLE CORPORATE NOTE

HEALTH CARE (1.0%)	\$10,000,000 MedImmune Vaccines, Inc. 5 1/4% due 2/1/08	(COST \$9,714,002) 10,250,000
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## SHORT-TERM SECURITIES AND OTHER ASSETS

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT		VALUE (NOTE 1a)
\$8,800,000	AIG Funding, Inc. note due 2/2/04; 1.01%	8,789,877
29,700,000	American Express Credit Corporation notes due 1/5-1/27/04; 1.05%	29,668,398
15,300,000	American General Finance Corporation note due 2/5/04; 1.03%	15,283,497
25,400,000	General Electric Capital Corporation notes due 1/8-2/3/04; 1.05%-1.08%	25,373,541
14,000,000	General Motors Acceptance Corporation notes due 1/6-1/30/04; 1.36%-1.38%	13,979,499
34,400,000	Prudential Funding, LLC notes due 1/2-1/22/04; 1.02%-1.06%	34,364,830
22,500,000	Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. notes due 1/12-1/26/04; 1.10%-1.15%	22,471,771
100,000,000	U.S. Treasury bills due 2/26-3/18/04; 0.98%-1.00%	99,546,882
	TOTAL SHORT-TERM SECURITIES (25.3%)	(COST \$249,478,295) 249,478,295
	Liabilities in excess of cash, receivables and other assets	(903,315)
	TOTAL SHORT-TERM SECURITIES AND OTHER ASSETS, NET (25.2%)	248,574,980
	PREFERRED STOCK (-20.2%)	(200,000,000)
	NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK (100%)	\$986,335,111

(a) Non-income producing security.

(b) 1,000,000 shares held by custodian in a segregated custodian account as collateral for open short positions.

(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	VALUE (NOTE 1a)
72,000	Electronic Arts Inc. \$3,432,960
300,000	NASDAQ - 100 Trust, Series 1 10,938,000
24,100	Southwest Bancorporation of Texas, Inc. 936,285
TOTAL SECURITIES SOLD SHORT	(PROCEEDS \$13,684,582) \$15,307,245

(see notes to financial statements)

**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.

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 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 sub-classification as a closed-end investment company or changes in its fundamental investment policies.

**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			<u>9,389,611</u>	<u>6,158,784</u>
Total increase			<u>9,724,118</u>	<u>6,410,677</u>
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			<u>(27,348,356)</u>	<u>(22,323,566)</u>
Total decrease			<u>(28,454,956)</u>	<u>(23,245,666)</u>
Net decrease			<u>(\$18,730,838)</u>	<u>(\$16,834,989)</u>

At December 31, 2003, the Company held in its treasury 1,442,300 shares of Common Stock with an 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	<u>413,648,035</u>
	<u>\$416,883,438</u>

**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	COST	VALUE
	ACQUIRED		(NOTE 1a)
Cytokinetics, Incorporated Series E Preferred	3/21/03	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Silicon Genesis Corporation	2/16/01	3,006,720	36,000
Standard MEMS, Inc. Series A Convertible Preferred	12/17/99	<u>3,003,000</u>	—
Total		<u>\$8,009,720</u>	<u>\$2,036,000</u>

**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 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.

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	1999
PER SHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE					
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$26.48	\$35.14	\$39.91	\$41.74	\$34.87
Net investment income	.02	.17	.39	.51	.44
Net gain (loss) on securities - realized and unrealized	7.72	(7.88)	(.66)	6.12	11.32
Distributions on Preferred Stock:					
Dividends from investment income	(.01)	(.12)	(.07)(a)	(.11)(b)	(.07)(c)
Distributions from capital gains	(.35)	(.23)	(.29)	(.29)	(.35)
	(.36)	(.35)	(.36)	(.40)	(.42)
Total from investment operations	7.38	(8.06)	(.63)	6.23	11.34
Other comprehensive income	.01	.02	.02	.02	.01
Less distributions on Common Stock:					
Dividends from investment income	(.02)	(.21)(d)	(.88)(e)	(2.30)(f)	(.71)(g)
Distributions from capital gains	(.52)	(.41)	(3.28)	(5.78)	(3.77)
	(.54)	(.62)	(4.16)	(8.08)	(4.48)
Capital Stock transaction - effect of Preferred Stock offering	(.22)	—	—	—	—
Net asset value, end of year	\$33.11	\$26.48	\$35.14	\$39.91	\$41.74
Per share market value, end of year	\$29.73	\$23.85	\$33.47	\$36.00	\$37.19
TOTAL INVESTMENT RETURN - Stockholder					
Return, based on market price per share	27.01%	(27.21)%	4.33%	19.10%	39.22%
RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA					
Net assets applicable to Common Stock, end of year (000's omitted)	\$986,335	\$809,192	\$1,097,530	\$1,155,039	\$1,094,519
Ratio of expenses to average net assets applicable to Common Stock	1.26%	0.97%	1.02%	1.09%	1.01%
Ratio of net income to average net assets applicable to Common Stock	0.10%	0.56%	1.10%	1.20%	1.22%
Portfolio turnover rate	18.62%	22.67%	23.81%	40.61%	33.68%
PREFERRED STOCK					
Liquidation value, end of year (000's omitted)	\$200,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Asset coverage	593%	639%	832%	870%	830%
Liquidation preference per share	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Market value per share	\$25.04	\$25.85	\$25.90	\$24.25	\$21.75
(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.					

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*

New York, New York  
January 14, 2004

#### OFFICERS

NAME (AGE) EMPLOYEE SINCE	POSITION WITH COMPANY SINCE	NAME (AGE) EMPLOYEE SINCE	POSITION WITH COMPANY SINCE
Spencer Davidson (61) 1994	President and Chief Executive Officer 1995	Peter P. Donnelly (55) 1974	Vice-President 1991 securities trader
Andrew V. Vindigni (44) 1988	Vice-President 1995 security analyst (financial services industry)	Diane G. Radosti (51) 1980	Treasurer 1990 Principal Accounting Officer 2003
Eugene L. DeStaebler, Jr. (65) 1975	Vice-President, Administration 1978 Principal Financial Officer 2002	Carole Anne Clementi (57) 1982	Secretary 1994 shareholder relations and office management

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



**DIRECTORS (UNAUDITED)***General American Investors*

<b>NAME (AGE) DIRECTOR SINCE</b>	<b>PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION DURING PAST 5 YEARS</b>	<b>OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT ("DISINTERESTED") DIRECTORS</b>		
<b>Lawrence B. Buttenwieser (72)</b> CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1967	<i>Counsel</i> 2002-present <i>Partner</i> 1966-2002 Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman and predecessor firms (lawyers)	
<b>Arthur G. Altschul, Jr. (39)</b> 1995	<i>Managing Member</i> Diaz & Altschul Capital Management, LLC (investments and securities)	Delta Opportunity Fund, Ltd., <i>Director</i> Medicis Pharmaceutical Corporation, <i>Director</i> Neurosciences Research Foundation, <i>Trustee</i>
<b>Lewis B. Cullman (85)</b> 1961	<i>Managing Member</i> Cullman Ventures LLC (formerly Cullman Ventures, Inc.)	Chess-in-the-Schools, <i>Chairman, Board of Trustees</i> Metropolitan Museum of Art, <i>Honorary Trustee</i> Museum of Modern Art, <i>Vice Chairman,</i> <i>International Council and Honorary Trustee</i> Neurosciences Research Foundation, <i>Vice Chairman,</i> <i>Board of Trustees</i> The New York Botanical Garden, <i>Senior Vice</i> <i>Chairman, Board of Managers</i>
<b>Gerald M. Edelman (74)</b> 1976	<i>Member and Chairman of the</i> <i>Department of Neurobiology</i> The Scripps Research Institute	Neurosciences Institute of the Neurosciences Research Foundation, <i>Director and President</i>
<b>John D. Gordan, III (58)</b> 1986	<i>Partner</i> Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP (lawyers)	
<b>Sidney R. Knafel (73)</b> 1994	<i>Managing Partner</i> SRK Management Company (private investment company)	BioReliance Corporation, <i>Chairman, Board of Directors</i> IGENE Biotechnology, Inc., <i>Director</i> Insight Communications Company, Inc., <i>Chairman, Board of Directors</i>
<b>Richard R. Pivrotto (73)</b> 1971	<i>President</i> Richard R. Pivrotto Co., Inc. (self-employed consultant)	General Theological Seminary, <i>Trustee</i> The Greenwich Bank and Trust Company, <i>Director</i> Greenwich Hospital Corporation, <i>Trustee</i> Immunomedics, Inc., <i>Director</i> New York Life Insurance Company, <i>Director</i> Princeton University, <i>Charter Trustee Emeritus</i>
<b>Joseph T. Stewart, Jr. (74)</b> 1987	<i>Corporate director and trustee</i> <i>Executive Consultant</i> Johnson & Johnson (1990-1999)	Foundation of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, <i>Trustee</i> Marine Biological Laboratory, <i>Member,</i> <i>Advisory Council</i> United States Merchant Marine Academy, <i>Trustee,</i> <i>Board of Advisors</i>
<b>Raymond S. Troubh (77)</b> 1989	<i>Financial Consultant</i>	Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc., <i>Director</i> Enron Corp., <i>Chairman, Board of Directors</i> Gentiva Health Services, Inc., <i>Director</i> Petrie Stores Liquidating Trust, <i>Trustee</i> Triarc Companies, Inc., <i>Director</i> WHX Corporation, <i>Director</i>
<b>INSIDE ("INTERESTED") DIRECTOR</b>		
<b>Spencer Davidson (61)</b> 1995	<i>President and Chief Executive Officer</i> General American Investors Company, Inc. since 1995	Medicis Pharmaceutical Corporation, <i>Director</i> Neurosciences Research Foundation, <i>Trustee</i>

All Directors serve for a term of one year and are elected by stockholders at the time of the annual meeting on the second Wednesday in April. The address for each Director is the Company's office.

**William O. Baker**, DIRECTOR EMERITUS  
**William T. Golden**, DIRECTOR EMERITUS

