

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC  
Form N-Q  
April 27, 2012

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM N-Q  
QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF  
REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY

Investment Company Act file number: 811-00041

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS COMPANY, INC.

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(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

100 Park Avenue, 35<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10017

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(Address of principal executive offices)(Zip code)

Eugene S. Stark  
General American Investors Company, Inc.  
100 Park Avenue, 35<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
New York, NY 10017  
(Name and address of agent for service)

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

Date of fiscal year end: December 31

Date of reporting period: March 31, 2012

Item 1: Statement of Investments

Shares	COMMON STOCKS	Value (note 1a)
	AEROSPACE/DEFENSE (2.7%)	
325,000	United Technologies Corporation	(Cost \$22,957,205) \$26,955,500
	COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SERVICES (6.9%)	
960,000	Cisco Systems, Inc.	20,304,000
700,000	QUALCOMM Incorporated	47,642,000

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	(Cost \$38,582,394)	67,946,000
COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND SYSTEMS (8.5%)		
50,000 Apple Inc. (a)		29,977,500
825,000 Dell Inc. (a)		13,690,875
770,000 Microsoft Corporation		24,836,350
230,000 Teradata Corporation (a)		15,674,500
	(Cost \$55,091,257)	84,179,225
CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES (13.8%)		
350,000 Diageo plc ADR		33,775,000
450,000 Nestle S.A.		28,043,312
325,000 PepsiCo, Inc.		21,563,750
206,000 Towers Watson & Co. Class A		13,610,420
722,894 Unilever N.V.		24,739,377
275,713 Visteon Corporation (a)		14,612,789
	(Cost \$98,895,863)	136,344,648
DIVERSIFIED (1.4%)		
110 Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Class A (a)	(Cost \$1,250,573)	\$13,409,000
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (INCLUDING SERVICES) (5.2%)		
957,100 Republic Services, Inc.		29,248,976
630,000 Waste Management, Inc.		22,024,800
	(Cost \$39,190,474)	51,273,776
FINANCE AND INSURANCE (25.1%)		
BANKING (4.3%)		
500,000 Bond Street Holdings LLC (a) (b)		9,000,000
520,000 JPMorgan Chase & Co.		23,909,600
110,000 M&T Bank Corporation		9,556,800
	(Cost \$31,140,007)	42,466,400
INSURANCE (11.6%)		
875,000 Arch Capital Group Ltd. (a)		32,585,000
245,000 Everest Re Group, Ltd.		22,667,400
53,500 Forethought Financial Group, Inc. Class A (a) (c)		12,037,500
325,000 MetLife, Inc.		12,138,750
285,000 PartnerRe Ltd.		19,348,650
435,000 Platinum Underwriters Holdings, Ltd.		15,877,500
	(Cost \$60,650,358)	114,654,800

OTHER (9.2%)

315,000	American Express Company	18,225,900
330,492	Aon Corporation	16,213,937
1,666,667	Epoch Holding Corporation	39,800,008
645,000	Nelnet, Inc.	16,711,950
	(Cost \$36,368,971)	90,951,795
	(Cost \$128,159,336)	248,072,995

Shares	COMMON STOCKS (continued)	Value (note 1a)
<b>HEALTH CARE / PHARMACEUTICALS (4.2%)</b>		
150,000	Celgene Corporation (a)	\$11,628,000
529,900	Cytokinetics, Incorporated (a)	609,385
214,300	Gilead Sciences, Inc. (a)	10,470,698
413,800	Intercell AG (a)	1,527,232
755,808	Pfizer Inc.	17,115,272
4,883	Poniard Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)	4,834
	(Cost \$43,265,395)	41,355,421
<b>MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT (3.7%)</b>		
1,200,000	ABB Ltd. ADR	24,492,000
900,000	The Manitowoc Company, Inc.	12,474,000
	(Cost \$23,703,922)	36,966,000
<b>METALS AND MINING (2.2%)</b>		
467,700	Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. (a)	7,113,717
200,000	Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.	7,608,000
150,000	Nucor Corporation	6,442,500
	(Cost \$37,134,911)	21,164,217
<b>MISCELLANEOUS (4.2%)</b>		
	Other (d)	(Cost \$41,006,808) 41,407,382
<b>OIL AND NATURAL GAS (INCLUDING SERVICES) (10.6%)</b>		
296,478	Apache Corporation	29,778,250
300,000	Canadian Natural Resources Limited	9,954,000
130,062	Devon Energy Corporation	9,250,010
750,000	Halliburton Company	24,892,500

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2,050,000	Weatherford International Ltd. (a)		30,934,500
		(Cost \$74,984,196)	104,809,260
<b>RETAIL TRADE (16.1%)</b>			
394,500	Costco Wholesale Corporation		35,820,600
460,000	Target Corporation		26,804,200
2,140,708	The TJX Companies, Inc.		85,007,515
191,050	Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.		11,692,260
		(Cost \$49,050,347)	159,324,575
<b>SEMICONDUCTORS (2.9%)</b>			
575,000	ASML Holding N.V.	(Cost \$13,463,950)	28,830,500
<b>TECHNOLOGY (1.3%)</b>			
750,000	International Game Technology	(Cost \$8,678,620)	12,592,500
<b>TOTAL COMMON STOCKS (108.8%)</b>			(Cost \$675,415,251) 1,074,630,999
<b>WARRANT</b>			
<b>BANKING (0.3%)</b>			
225,000	JPMorgan Chase & Co., expires 10/28/2018 (a)	(Cost \$2,865,853)	3,010,500

Shares	SHORT-TERM SECURITY AND OTHER ASSETS		Value (note 1a)
107,427,994	SSgA U.S. Treasury Money Market Fund (10.9%)	(Cost \$107,427,994)	\$107,427,994
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS (e) (120.0%)</b>			(Cost \$785,709,098) 1,185,069,493
Liabilities in excess of cash, receivables and other assets (-0.7%)			(6,960,263)
<b>PREFERRED STOCK (-19.3%)</b>			(190,117,175)
<b>NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK (100%)</b>			\$987,992,055
ADR - American Depositary Receipt			

(a) Non-income producing security.

(b) Level 3 fair value measurement, restricted security acquired 11/4/09, aggregate cost \$10,000,000, unit cost is \$20.00 per share and fair value is \$18.00 per share, note 2. Fair value is based upon bid and/or transaction prices provided via the NASDAQ OMX PORTAL Alliance trading and transfer system for privately placed equity securities traded in the over-the-counter market among qualified investors and an evaluation of book value per share.

(c) Level 3 fair value measurement, restricted security acquired 11/3/09, aggregate cost \$10,748,000, unit cost is \$200.90 per share and fair value is \$225.00 per share, note 2. Fair valuation is based upon a market approach using valuation metrics (market price-earnings and market price-book value multiples), and changes therein, relative to a peer group of companies established by the underwriters as well as actual transaction prices resulting from limited trading in the security.

(d) Securities which have been held for less than one year, not previously disclosed, and not restricted.

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(e) At March 31, 2012: the cost of investments for Federal income tax purposes was the same as the cost for financial reporting purposes, aggregate gross unrealized appreciation was \$441,252,422, aggregate gross unrealized depreciation was \$41,892,027, and net unrealized appreciation was \$399,360,395.

(see notes to financial statements)

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

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#### General American Investors

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.

#### 1. SECURITY VALUATION

Equity securities traded on a national securities exchange are valued at the last reported sales price on the last business day of the period. Equity securities reported on the NASDAQ national market are valued at the official closing price on that day. Listed and NASDAQ equity 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 options written) on the valuation date. Equity securities traded primarily in foreign markets are valued at the closing price of such securities on their respective exchanges or markets. Corporate debt securities, domestic and foreign, are generally traded in the over-the-counter market rather than on a securities exchange. The Company utilizes the latest bid prices provided by independent dealers and information with respect to transactions in such securities to assist in determining current market value. If, after the close of foreign markets, conditions change significantly, the price of certain foreign securities may be adjusted to reflect fair value as of the time of the valuation of the portfolio.

Investments in money market funds are valued at their net asset value. Special holdings (restricted securities) and other securities for which quotations are not readily available are valued at fair value determined in good faith pursuant to specific procedures appropriate to each security as established by and under the general supervision of the Board of Directors.

#### 2. OPTIONS

The Company may purchase and write (sell) put and call options. The Company typically purchases put options or writes call options to hedge the value of portfolio investments while it typically purchases call options and writes put options to obtain equity market exposure under specified circumstances. The risk associated with purchasing an option is that the Company pays a premium whether or not the option is exercised. Additionally, the Company bears the risk of loss of the premium and a change in market value should the counterparty not perform under the contract. Put and call options purchased are accounted for in the same manner as portfolio securities. Premiums received from writing options are reported as a liability on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Those that expire unexercised are treated by the Company on the expiration date as realized gains on written option transactions in the Statement of Operations. The difference between the premium received and the amount paid on effecting a closing purchase transaction, including brokerage commissions, is also treated as a realized gain, or, if the premium is less than the amount paid for the closing purchase transaction, as a realized loss on written option transactions in the Statement of Operations. If a call option is exercised, the premium is added to the proceeds from the sale of the underlying security in determining whether the Company has realized a gain or loss on investments in the Statement of Operations. If a put option is exercised, the premium reduces the cost basis for the securities purchased by the Company and is parenthetically disclosed under cost of investments on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. The Company as writer of an option bears the market risk of an unfavorable change in the price of the security underlying the written option.

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#### 3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Various data inputs are used in determining the value of the Company's investments. These inputs are summarized in a hierarchy consisting of the three broad levels listed below:

Level 1 - quoted prices in active markets for identical securities (including money market funds which are valued using amortized cost and which transact at net asset value, typically \$1 per share),

Level 2 - other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, credit risk, etc.), and

Level 3 - significant unobservable inputs (including the Company's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments).

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The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities. The following is a summary of the inputs used to value the Company's net assets as of March 31, 2012:

Assets	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Common Stocks	\$1,053,593,499	-	\$21,037,500	\$1,074,630,999
Warrant	3,010,500	-	-	3,010,500
Money Market	107,427,994	-	-	107,427,994
Total	\$1,164,031,993	-	\$21,037,500	\$1,185,069,493

The aggregate value of Level 3 portfolio investments changed during the three months ended March 31, 2012 as follows:

	Level 3
Change in portfolio valuations using significant unobservable inputs	
Fair value at December 31, 2011	\$19,860,500
Net change in unrealized appreciation on investments	1,177,000
Fair value at March 31, 2012	\$21,037,500

The increase in net unrealized appreciation included in the results of operations attributable to Level 3 assets held at March 31, 2012 and reported within the caption *Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation* in the Statement of Operations:

\$1,177,000

### ITEM 2. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

#### Conclusions of principal officers concerning controls and procedures

(a) As of March 31, 2012, an evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of the officers of General American Investors Company, Inc. (the "Registrant"), including the principal executive officer ("PEO") and principal financial officer ("PFO"), of the effectiveness of the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures. Based on that evaluation, the Registrant's officers, including the PEO and PFO, concluded that, as of March 31, 2012, the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures were reasonably designed so as to ensure: (1) that information required to be disclosed by the Registrant on Form N-Q is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified by the rules and forms of the Securities and Exchange Commission; and (2) that material information relating to the Registrant is made known to the PEO and PFO as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

(b) There have been no significant changes in the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30a-3(d))) that occurred during the Registrant's last fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

### ITEM 3. EXHIBITS.

The certifications of the principal executive officer and principal financial officer pursuant to Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 are attached hereto as Exhibit 99 CERT.

### SIGNATURES

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

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General American Investors Company, Inc.

By: /s/ Eugene S. Stark  
Eugene S. Stark  
Vice-President, Administration

Date: April 27, 2012

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

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

Date: April 27, 2012

By: /s/ Eugene S. Stark  
Eugene S. Stark  
Vice-President, Administration  
(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: April 27, 2012