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GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC

Report Summary:

Form 13F-HR October 20, 2008

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

FORM 13F

FORM 13F COVER PAGE

2011. 201 00121. 21102
Report for the Calendar Year or Quarter Ended: September 30, 2008
Check here if Amendment []; Amendment Number: This Amendment (Check only one.): [] is a restatement. [] adds new holdings entries.
Institutional Investment Manager Filing this Report:
Name:GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS COMPANY, INC. Address: 100 PARK AVE 35TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10017
13F File Number: 28-461
The institutional investment manager filing this report and the person by whom it is signed hereby represent that the person signing the report is authorized to submit it, that all information contained herein is true, correct and complete, and that it is understood that all required items, statements, schedules, lists, and tables, are considered integral parts of this form.
Person Signing this Report on Behalf of Reporting Manager:
Name: Eugene S. Stark Title: Vice-President, Administration Phone: 212-916-8447 Signature, Place, and Date of Signing:
Eugene S. Stark New York, NY October 20, 2008
Report Type (Check only one.):
[X] 13F HOLDINGS REPORT.
[] 13F NOTICE.
[] 13F COMBINATION REPORT.
List of Other Managers Reporting for this Manager:
Form 13F File Number Name
I AM SIGNING THIS REPORT AS REQUIRED BY THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.
FORM 13F SUMMARY PAGE

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Number of Other Included Managers: 0

Form 13F Information Table Entry Total: 56

Form 13F Information Table Value Total: \$989573813

List of Other Included Managers:

No. 13F File Number Name

					VALUE	SHARES/	SH/	PUT/	INVSTMT
NAME OF ISSUER	-TITLE	OF	CLASS-	CUSIP	x\$1000	PRN AMT	PRN	CALL	DSCRETN
ABB Ltd. ADR	COMMON			000375204	19400	1000000	SH		SOLE
Arch Capital Group Ltd.	COMMON			G0450A105	23004	315000	SH		SOLE
Adams Express Company	COMMON			006212104	1269	117798	SH		SOLE
The Allstate Corporation	COMMON			020002101	14989	325000	SH		SOLE
Alplha Natural Resources, Inc.	COMMON			02076X102	4114	80000	SH		SOLE
Apache Corporation	COMMON			037411105	52119	499800	SH		SOLE
ASML Holding N.V.	COMMON			N07059186	12327	700000	SH		SOLE
Alexander & Baldwin, Inc.	COMMON			014482103	10395	236100	SH		SOLE
American Express Company	COMMON			025816109	13286	375000	SH		SOLE
AXIS Capital Holdings Limited	COMMON			G0692U109	9513	300000	SH		SOLE
The Boeing Company	COMMON			097023105	34410	600000	SH		SOLE
Biogen Idec Inc.	COMMON			09062X103	3520	70000	SH		SOLE
Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Class A	COMMON			084670108	26120	200	SH		SOLE
Central Securities Corporation	COMMON			155123102	681	30578	SH		SOLE
Cougar Biotechnology, Inc.	COMMON			222083107	2354	70500	SH		SOLE
Cliffs Natural Resources Inc.	COMMON			18683K101	6353	120000	SH		SOLE
Costco Wholesale Corporation	COMMON			22160K105	37335	575000	SH		SOLE
Cisco Systems, Inc.	COMMON			17275R102	20642	915000	SH		SOLE
CEMEX, S.A. de C.V. ADR	COMMON			151290889	39719	2306589	SH		SOLE
Cytokinetics, Incorporated	COMMON			23282W100	2512	529900	SH		SOLE
Dell Inc.	COMMON			24702R101	25626	1555000	SH		SOLE
Diageo plc ADR	COMMON			25243Q205	24101	350000	SH		SOLE
Genentech, Inc.	COMMON			368710406	17736	200000	SH		SOLE
Epoch Holding Corporation	COMMON			29428R103	17583	1666667	SH		SOLE
Fidelity National Financial, Inc	COMMON			31620R105	13965	950000	SH		SOLE
Gilead Sciences, Inc.	COMMON			375558103	5453	119500	SH		SOLE
Halliburton Company	COMMON			406216101	25912	800000	SH		SOLE
Hewitt Associates, Inc.Class A	COMMON			42822Q100	16985	466100	SH		SOLE
Lamar Advertising Company	COMMON			512815101	10011	324100	SH		SOLE
Leap Wireless International, Inc	COMMON			521863308	5429	142500	SH		SOLE
Lender Processing Services, Inc.	COMMON			52602E102	763	25000	SH		SOLE
McDermott International, Inc.	COMMON			580037109	8943	350000	SH		SOLE
MetLife, Inc.	COMMON			59156R108	14000	250000	SH		SOLE
Microsoft Corporation	COMMON			594918104	15213	570000	SH		SOLE
M&T Bank Corporation	COMMON			55261F104	19189	215000	SH		SOLE
Nelnet, Inc.	COMMON			64031N108	12070	850000	SH		SOLE
NetEase.com, Inc.	COMMON			64110W102	10148	445100	SH		SOLE
MetroPCS Communications, Inc.	COMMON			591708102	16928	1210000	SH		SOLE
PepsiCo, Inc.	COMMON			713448108	17105	240000	SH		SOLE
PartnerRe Ltd.	COMMON			G6852T105	18725	275000	SH		SOLE
Patterson-UTI Energy, Inc.	COMMON			703481101	10010	500000	SH		SOLE
QUALCOMM Incorporated	COMMON			747525103	34376	800000	SH		SOLE

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COMMON	G3223R108	25959	300000	SH	SOLE
COMMON	760759100	26427	881500	SH	SOLE
COMMON	780910105	1742	130785	SH	SOLE
COMMON	845905108	4740	1200000	SH	SOLE
COMMON	88076W103	13455	690000	SH	SOLE
COMMON	87612E106	16339	333100	SH	SOLE
COMMON	872540109	51121	1675000	SH	SOLE
COMMON	893521104	4783	88000	SH	SOLE
COMMON	883203101	17588	600700	SH	SOLE
COMMON	913017109	19520	325000	SH	SOLE
COMMON	G95089101	62096	2470000	SH	SOLE
COMMON	94106L109	21413	680000	SH	SOLE
COMMON	931142103	28148	470000	SH	SOLE
COMMON	984121103	21907	1900000	SH	SOLE
	COMMON	COMMON 760759100 COMMON 780910105 COMMON 845905108 COMMON 88076W103 COMMON 87612E106 COMMON 872540109 COMMON 893521104 COMMON 883203101 COMMON 913017109 COMMON G95089101 COMMON 94106L109 COMMON 931142103	COMMON 760759100 26427 COMMON 780910105 1742 COMMON 845905108 4740 COMMON 88076W103 13455 COMMON 87612E106 16339 COMMON 872540109 51121 COMMON 893521104 4783 COMMON 883203101 17588 COMMON 913017109 19520 COMMON G95089101 62096 COMMON 94106L109 21413 COMMON 931142103 28148	COMMON 760759100 26427 881500 COMMON 780910105 1742 130785 COMMON 845905108 4740 1200000 COMMON 88076W103 13455 690000 COMMON 87612E106 16339 333100 COMMON 872540109 51121 1675000 COMMON 893521104 4783 88000 COMMON 883203101 17588 600700 COMMON 913017109 19520 325000 COMMON G95089101 62096 2470000 COMMON 94106L109 21413 680000 COMMON 931142103 28148 470000	COMMON 760759100 26427 881500 SH COMMON 780910105 1742 130785 SH COMMON 845905108 4740 1200000 SH COMMON 88076W103 13455 690000 SH COMMON 87612E106 16339 333100 SH COMMON 872540109 51121 1675000 SH COMMON 893521104 4783 88000 SH COMMON 883203101 17588 600700 SH COMMON 913017109 19520 325000 SH COMMON G95089101 62096 2470000 SH COMMON 94106L109 21413 680000 SH COMMON 931142103 28148 470000 SH