

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC  
 Form 5  
 January 09, 2009

**FORM 5**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).  
 Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

**ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 SHUMAN D ELLEN

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O CARNEGIE CORPORATION  
 OF NEW YORK, 437 MADISON  
 AVENUE, 26TH FLOOR

(Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10168

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC [GAM]

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/31/2008

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

Form Filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)	
Common Stock	12/26/2008		J <sup>(1)</sup>	141 <sup>(2)</sup> A	\$ 15.55	4,521	D	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. of D S B O E Is Fi (I
					(A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount or Number of Shares		

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SHUMAN D ELLEN C/O CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK 437 MADISON AVENUE, 26TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10168	X			

## Signatures

/s/D. Ellen  
Shuman  
Date: 01/09/2009

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Shares received in payment of dividends.
- (2) Sixteen of the 141 shares were acquired in a brokerage account through dividend reinvestment on 2/11/08 at the then prevailing market rate (approximately \$32.03 P/S).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.