

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC  
 Form 3  
 October 06, 2008

**FORM 3** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL  
 OMB Number: 3235-0104  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Trust FBO James Wagner Altschul, U/A/D 08/20/1998 (Last) (First) (Middle)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 10/02/2008	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC [GAM]	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  (Check all applicable)  <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Officer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below) (specify below) Trustee, President & CEO	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)
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C/O OVERBROOK  
 MANAGEMENT CORP., 122  
 EAST 42ND STREET - SUITE  
 2500  
 (Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10168-2500  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of	5. Ownership Form of Derivative	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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