

ALTSCHUL ARTHUR G JR  
 Form 5  
 February 05, 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 \*  
 ALTSCHUL ARTHUR G JR

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

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

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

C/O OVERBROOK MANAGEMENT CORP., 122 EAST 42ND STREET, SUITE 2500

(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting  
 (check applicable line)

NEW YORK, NY 10168

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

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D) Amount Price			
Common Stock	12/26/2008	^	J(1)	639 A \$ 15.55	23,245	I	By Trust (2)
Common Stock	12/26/2008	^	J(1)	2,084 A \$ 15.55	75,780	I	By Trusts (3)
Common Stock	12/26/2008	^	J(1)	2,533 A \$ 15.55	153,965	I	By Trusts (4)

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Common Stock	12/26/2008	Â	J <sup>(1)</sup>	8,073	A	\$ 15.55	301,975	I	Shared Voting Power <sup>(5)</sup>
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	2,143	D	Â
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	139,429	I	By Non-Profit Foundation <sup>(6)</sup>
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	6,984	I	By POA <sup>(7)</sup>
5.95% Preferred Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	4,000	I	By Trusts <sup>(3)</sup>
5.95% Preferred Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	71,400	I	By Trusts <sup>(4)</sup>
5.95% Preferred Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	12,000	I	Shared Voting Power <sup>(5)</sup>
5.95% Preferred Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	11,200	I	By POA <sup>(7)</sup>

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

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SEC 2270 (9-02)

**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
					(A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
ALTSCHUL ARTHUR G JR C/O OVERBROOK MANAGEMENT CORP. 122 EAST 42ND STREET, SUITE 2500 NEW YORK, NY 10168	X	^	^	^

## Signatures

Arthur G. Altschul, Jr. 02/05/2009

Signature of Reporting Person Date

## 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) Shares held in irrevocable trust for the benefit of Arthur G. Altschul, Jr.
- (3) By various trusts of which Arthur G. Altschul, Jr. is trustee. He disclaims any beneficial interest in these shares.
- (4) By various Trusts of which Arthur G. Altschul, Jr. is both a trustee and a beneficiary.
- (5) Arthur G. Altschul, Jr. has shared voting power only. He disclaims any beneficial interest in these shares.
- (6) Arthur G. Altschul, Jr. serves as a director of a non-profit foundation. He has voting power only. He disclaims any beneficial interest in these shares.
- (7) Arthur G. Altschul, Jr. has power of attorney over mother's account.

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.