

Priest Jeffrey W  
Form 3  
February 03, 2012

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 \*  
 Â Priest Jeffrey W  
 (Last) (First) (Middle)

2. Date of Event Requiring Statement  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 02/01/2012

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)

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

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS COMPANY, INC., Â 100 PARK AVENUE - 35TH FLOOR  
 (Street)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 X  Officer \_\_\_\_ Other  
 (give title below) (specify below)  
 President

NEW YORK, Â NY Â 10017  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 X  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) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Common Stock                    | 11,592  | D  | Â   |
| Common Stock                    | 2,072   | I  | By Parent <sup>(1)</sup>                              |
| Common Stock                    | 10,196  | I  | By Power of Attorney <sup>(1)</sup>                   |
| 5.95% Preferred Stock           | 3,356   | D  | Â   |
| 5.95% Preferred Stock           | 1,739   | I  | By Parent <sup>(1)</sup>                              |
| 5.95% Preferred Stock           | 13,121  | I  | By Power of Attorney <sup>(1)</sup>                   |
| 5.95% Preferred Stock           | 2,000   | I  | By Children <sup>(2)</sup>                            |

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security<br>(Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of<br>Securities Underlying<br>Derivative Security<br>(Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 5. Ownership<br>Form of<br>Derivative<br>Security:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I)<br>(Instr. 5) | 6. Nature of Indirect<br>Beneficial Ownership<br>(Instr. 5) |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|
|   | Date<br>Exercisable  | Expiration<br>Date   |  |  |   |
|   |  | Title  | Amount or<br>Number of<br>Shares                                   |  |   |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |             |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer     | Other |
| Priest Jeffrey W<br>GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS COMPANY, INC.<br>100 PARK AVENUE - 35TH FLOOR<br>NEW YORK, NY 10017 | Â             | Â         | Â President | Â     |

## Signatures

/s/Jeffrey W. Priest 02/03/2012

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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) Mr. Priest has voting and dispositive power and disclaims beneficial interest
- (2) Pecuniary interest.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space 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.